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Carrie's single tops 4 Billboard charts

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New columnist Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas writes about the tapes

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Int'l groups say RP media killings far from solved

By Nikko Dizon

TWO INTERNATIONAL groups yesterday said that the murders of Filipino journalists were far from solved, contrary to the government's claims.

"It's a long difficult road and not enough has been done, in my opinion," Abi Wright,

INT'L/ A20

'It's Not My Voice Movement' urged

By DJ Yap and Fe Zamora

HOW TO pin down the female voice in the so-called Gloria-gate tapes?

Ask each of the 86 million Filipinos to swear on

IT'S NOT/ A8

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Monday, June 27, 2005 ★★ 76 pages / 8 sections Vol. 20 No. 199 P18
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LAST RESPECTS. People wait in line for a glimpse of the late former Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin's remains before he is buried tomorrow. ERIK ARAZAS

Snap election perfectly legal move–Roco

Bunye says proposal is absurd

By Michael Lim Ubac

ALTHOUGH Malacañang has called it "absurd," a proposal for a "snap election" appeared to be gaining ground with former Sen. Raul Roco describing it as a perfectly legal move to prevent the nation from careening toward a cliff.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said the holding of an immediate vote was a "workable and acceptable alternative" in the event President Macapagal-Arroyo resigns or is evicted from office as a consequence of an illegal gambling scandal that allegedly involves her family and a wiretap controversy that purportedly shows she cheated in last year's election.

Rep. Jacinto Paras of Negros Oriental said Ms Arroyo could seek a "fresh mandate," but Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano of Taguig said a new vote could only take place if Vice President Noli de Castro resigns.

"Calls for snap election or resignation of the President are absurd," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye. "All those who want to run for president will have to wait for the next presidential election" in 2010.

Also yesterday, Malacañang warned against opposition calls not to pay taxes to force Ms Arroyo to speak up on the tapped telephone conversation that indicated she had pressed then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano for a one-million-vote victory.

"I don't see how you can draw a comparison between not paying taxes and the President holding her silence, at least for the time being," said Gabriel Claudio, the President's adviser on political affairs.

"Not paying taxes is simply against the law," he said. "Politics is one thing, economic sabotage and blackmail is another."

Claudio also denounced as "dirty tricks at their dirtiest" text messages being circulated, saying that the administration was paying up to P2 million to each congressman who would vote to stop the House inquiry into the wiretap.

"There are no lobby money, inducements or pressure being used by the administration on members of Congress, and certainly no use of Pagcor, Presidential Social Fund or any government funds for this purpose will ever be contemplated or allowed," Claudio said.

In an interview yesterday, Roco contested the claim by some quarters that a snap election was unconstitutional, saying it would be legal once both Ms Arroyo and De Castro resigned.

Roco compared De Castro to the spare tire of a car being driven by Ms Arroyo which, he said, unfortunately had gone out of control and was now heading straight toward a cliff.

"*Por la patria* (For the country's sake), resign now," said Roco.

Roco brushed aside suggestions that there was no viable alternative to Ms Arroyo and that this was why the opposition had so far failed to drum up popular support for protest actions.

SNAP ELECTION/ A8

Party-list group snubs summit

By Michael Lim Ubac

POLITICAL parties are scheduled to meet today to lay the groundwork for the July 11 political summit called by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., but a party-list group is snubbing the event.

"It is an attempt to consolidate GMA (President Macapagal-Arroyo) forces in the wake of the raging tape controversy and the jueteng scandal," Anakpawis party-list Rep. Rafael Mariano said.

He told the INQUIRER that fellow Anakpawis Rep. Crispin Beltran and other party-list groups in the House of Representatives were not keen on joining the event to be held at a building near the Batasang Pambansa complex in Quezon City.

The country's major political parties had adopted a summit agenda that included seven topics—government system and governance; human capital development; land use, natural resources development and environment; income, jobs and wealth generation; food security; peace process with Moro and communist rebels, and fiscal and financial resources management.

De Venecia said last month that constitutional reforms, such as the shift to a parliamentary form of government and federal type of government, would be discussed at the summit after the Senate and House committees on constitutional

PARTY-LIST/ A8

Rosales to become RP's new prince of Church, says Cruz

By Luige A. del Puerto and Christian V. Esguerra

MANILA Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales will most likely be the country's newest prince of the Church.

"I'm 110 percent sure about that," Archbishop Oscar Cruz of Lingayen-Dagupan told reporters yesterday.

Fr. Rufino Sescon, the private secretary of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin, said "it's just a matter of time" before the Vatican [would] make Rosales a cardinal. Rosales succeeded Sin as head of the Archdiocese of Manila.

Both Cruz and Sescon explained that by practice, whoever headed the powerful and influential See of Manila was named a cardinal or prince of the Church.

"That's automatic," Sescon told reporters yesterday. "I'll bet on that."

Cruz said this would also be the case for the future successor of Cebu Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal. He said the Holy See usually names Filipino cardinals only for the Archdioceses of Manila and Cebu.

ROSALES / A20

Friendship Day revives RP-Spain historical ties

By Amando Doronila

ANALYSIS

A WEARY nation refocuses its attention this week from the political turmoil in Imperial Manila to its glorious past as it commemorates the first Spanish-Filipino Friendship Day in Iloilo City, the last capital of the Spanish Empire in Asia, which the Spanish Governor-General Diego de los Rios surrendered to the Filipino Revolutionary Army on Dec. 23, 1898.

The commemoration, aimed at reviving the waning historical relations between the Philippines and Spain, will reach its climax on June 30 with ceremonies at Iloilo's Plaza Libertad. It will be graced by President Macapagal-Arroyo and other notables from Manila, including Sen. Edgardo Angara, author of the Spanish-Filipino Friendship Day legislation, Senate President Franklin Drilon and Spanish Ambassador Ignacio Sagaz.

June 30 was designated as friendship day because it was on that day that President

FRIENDSHIP/ A8

Traders beat museum execs to galleon treasure

THESE centuries-old Spanish gold and silver coins were among the treasures found in the sunken galleon off Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LEGAZPI CITY—Museum officials here found out too late that fishermen on Rapu-Rapu Island had discovered late last year a sunken Spanish galleon that contained gold and silver coins, jars and other valuable treasures.

More than a thousand 17th- and 18th-century Spanish coins were recovered from the wreckage but only fewer than 20 pieces could be left because the fishermen had quietly sold the items to treasure hunters and collectors, Legazpi Museum curator Erlinda Belleza said, citing a report by two residents of Barangay Viga in Rapu-Rapu.

Rapu-Rapu is about two hours by motorboat from this city. However, it would take another one-and-a-half hours to reach Viga.

The business was so brisk and profitable that fisherfolk in Barangay Viga and neighboring villages temporarily stopped fishing.

Taiwanese, Japanese, Korean and Filipino businessmen and collectors coming from Manila had frequented the village to buy as many coins and other items as possible, the two whistle-blowers said. The price of each coin ranged from P6,000 to P10,000.

TRADERS / A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

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Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

VAT guidelines out today

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT will issue today the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the recently passed expanded value-added tax law that contains a provision suspending the proposed limit on input VAT credits after businessmen complained about the cap.

Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima will sign the VAT law's IRR which will take effect 15 days after publication in a newspaper.

The Expanded Value-Added Tax Act of 2005, which basically expands the coverage of the tax to include more sectors, such as the oil industry, contains a provision limiting the input VAT credits that businesses can claim.

But business groups objected to the VAT cap, saying it would further increase their cost of doing business in the Philippines, where prices of commodities like oil and electricity, which are common inputs for business, are already high.

They warned that they might be forced to raise the prices of their products to compensate for the additional business cost resulting from the VAT cap.

Due to the strong clamor against the cap, finance and internal revenue officials crafted the IRR in such a way that would temporarily make it possible for businesses to still claim their input VAT credits in full, despite a provision in the VAT law requiring the capping of the credits.

What credits are

Input VAT credits are the amount of VAT paid by a firm upon purchase of any goods (like raw materials) or services, whose costs include the 10-percent VAT. The input VAT credits are deducted from the firm's gross VAT liability (called the output VAT).

With the VAT cap, therefore, the amount of input VAT credits that firms can claim will be limited. The law specifically set the cap on input VAT credits at 70 percent of a firm's output VAT. This means that if the firm has P100,000 worth of output VAT for a month, it can only deduct input VAT worth P70,000 or below, even though it actually has a higher amount of input VAT, say P90,000.

Only in December

Bureau of Internal Revenue Deputy Commissioner Kim Henares said that under the IRR, businesses would be allowed to use 100 percent of their input VAT credits in their monthly VAT remittances from July to November. It is only in December that businesses would be asked to pay their additional VAT liability resulting from the VAT cap, she said.

But while the IRR calls for the collection of the additional VAT liability by December, its real intention is to buy time for authorities to amend the VAT law.

Finance Undersecretary Emmanuel Bonoan earlier said the DOF was pushing for a law that would raise the threshold of the VAT cap to 90 percent, instead of 70 percent, to make the cap less of a burden to businesses.

While businesses wanted to totally scrap the VAT cap, Bonoan said the DOF was only looking at increasing the threshold to somehow protect the government's revenue collection.

The idea of putting a cap on input VAT credits was first raised amid the huge deficiencies in the government's VAT collection.

Input higher than output

The DOF had said that quite a number of firms, including those in the telecommunication industry, used to have input VAT claims that were higher than their output VAT, resulting in the government having to give them refunds.

"They (DOF) wanted to have the bill amending the VAT law certified as urgent. They wanted to persuade businesses not to raise prices just because of the VAT cap," Henares said in an interview.

Moves to have the new VAT law amended only came after its passage last month. Tedious deliberations on the VAT bill took several months in Congress.

GMA to sign EO cutting oil, LPG tariffs

By Christine O. Avendaño

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo will soon sign an executive order reducing tariffs on petroleum and other refined products as well as liquified petroleum gas to cushion the impact of surging oil prices in the world market and the impending implementation of the new value-added tax (VAT) law.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said yesterday the President will issue the EO following the approval by the National Economic Development Authority of the tariff cut proposal endorsed by the Committee on Tariff and Related Matters.

Under the proposal, the tariffs on crude and refined products will be reduced from 5 percent to 3 percent and on LPG from 3 percent to zero.

On top of the tariff cuts, Bunye said the energy department will remove the excise tax on diesel, kerosene and bunker oil and reduce the excise tax on regular gasoline as provided for in the new VAT law.

"Based on these measures, the impact on the following products will be less than 10 percent," Bunye said in his weekly column, "View from the Palace."

For unleaded gasoline, it would be 8.5 percent; regular gasoline, 6.8 percent; diesel, 1.8 percent; kerosene, 5.8 percent; bunker oil, 6.4 percent, and LPG, 7.7 percent.

Bunye was quoting Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla who spoke on the radio program of Vice President Noli de Castro a few days ago.

The presidential spokesperson also said the county should unite amid the soaring oil prices, which he said, was "the paramount issue of the day."

Employers told: Pay new wages

RAISE wages or face prosecution.

This warning was made yesterday by Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas to employers who fail to give their workers the new minimum wage.

Sto. Tomas said employers who would not comply with the mandated wage increase would be fined by up to P100,000 and face a jail sentence.

But struggling companies need not worry. Sto. Tomas said employers who cannot afford to give the wage hike should inform the department about their predicament.

"Kung hindi natin kayang bayaran ang minimum wage, humingi tayo ng exemption (If we cannot pay the minimum wage, we should ask for an exemption)," she said in a statement posted on the website of the Department of Labor and Employment.

According to the National Wages and Productivity Commission, a company could file for exemption from the salary hike within 75 days after the publication of the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the wage order.

The IRR for the P25 wage hike in the National Capital Region is set to be signed next week and will be published subsequently. The IRR for Regions 5, 8 and 12 have been signed and are expected to be published next week.

The P25 additional pay granted to minimum wage earners in Metro Manila, which took effect on June 16, is the highest among the pay raises in the country. The amount was added to the basic daily wage and not to the cost of living allowance as some employers wanted. *Leila B. Salaverria*

Angara says fraud caused KNP loss

FRAUD, not the candidacy of Sen. Panfilo Lacson which split the opposition, caused the defeat in the 2004 elections of the Koalisyon ng Nagkakaisang Pilipino's presidential bet Fernando Poe Jr. and his running mate, then Sen. Loren Legarda, Sen. Edgardo Angara said yesterday.

"The details of this 'massive electoral cheating' have been fully documented by the lawyers of the KNP, which had fielded Poe and Legarda. The KNP lawyers later filed an electoral protest on behalf of the opposition presidential and vice presidential candidates," Angara said.

Angara was taking pains to debunk a Saturday commentary of INQUIRER columnist Belinda Olivares-Cunanan which quoted Angara as saying soon after the elections that the opposition lost not because of cheating but because it was "bitterly divided."

Angara, in a statement, branded Cunanan's report "as bogus as the Comelec-tallied and Congress-canvassed electoral results of 2004."

The opposition senator, who formed the KNP and drafted Poe as its standard-bearer following a split in the opposition Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino party, said he had already articulated his views on what he had since called the "sham electoral result" of the 2004 polls in a statement he gave at the close of the congressional canvass.

Lacson and several congressmen in the LDP mounted their own presidential campaign with the former Philippine National Police chief as the standard-bearer.

Lacson and Angara had been at loggerheads politically and personally since that time. *Norman Bordadora*

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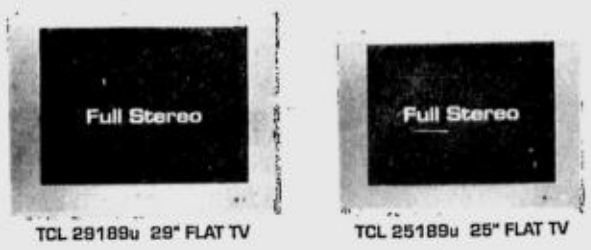

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End 'jueteng' probe, Bunye urges solons

By Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora and Gil Cabacungan Jr.

PRESS Secretary Ignacio Bunye yesterday called for the Senate to conclude its inquiry on "jueteng" payola, saying the senators had gathered enough inputs to legislate the necessary measures.

"The real purpose of the investigation should be in aid of legislation," Bunye told RMN radio, adding that it should not be a fishing expedition.

According to the press secretary, it was no longer the work of the senators to investigate the government officials that witnesses had linked to gambling payoffs, but agencies like the Office of the Ombudsman and the Department of Justice.

More importantly, Bunye said, not one of the witnesses presented or yet to be presented would be able to link President Macapagal-Arroyo to the illegal numbers game contrary to earlier claims.

"(Lingayen-Pangasinan) Archbishop (Oscar) Cruz has admitted he has no witnesses who would testify to directly link the President," he said.

"It is about time the jueteng probe comes to an end," Bunye wrote in his weekly column on the web, "View from the Palace."

He said senators "have better things to do other than play fiscals and prosecutors."

Sen. Manuel Villar, chair of the Senate committee on public order, said they were planning to wrap up their investigation on jueteng since nothing new and significant came out of last Friday's six-hour hearing.

"We are considering wrapping it up on either Wednesday or Thursday [after the jueteng hearing scheduled this week]. No new witnesses are on hand and even Archbishop Cruz said he only had one more [witness] or even none at all," Villar told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Senate President Franklin Drilon also released a statement calling on Villar's committee and the committee on games and amusement chaired by Sen. Manuel Lapid to assess whether it should continue with the public hearings.

Opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson said the information gathered from the jueteng probe was not nearly enough.

"[What] is the real reason Malacañang wants to stop the probe? Is it afraid something bigger will be discovered?" Lacson said.

Cruz told reporters on Friday that he had one more witness who was to testify on how jueteng millions found their way to the President's campaign kitty in 2004. But the witness decided not to take the stand because he reportedly received threats.

GMA can rest easy for now, says opposition

IT'S THE so-called calm before the storm.

After the massive protests spawned by the jueteng payola scandal and accusations of poll fraud, Malacañang and its occupants can relax a bit for now.

Opposition officials said their next major rally against President Macapagal-Arroyo would most likely take place during her State of the Nation Address on July 25.

But Rez Cortez, chair of the National Coordinating Council of Volunteers, said that pockets of protests by different groups would continue before the SONA.

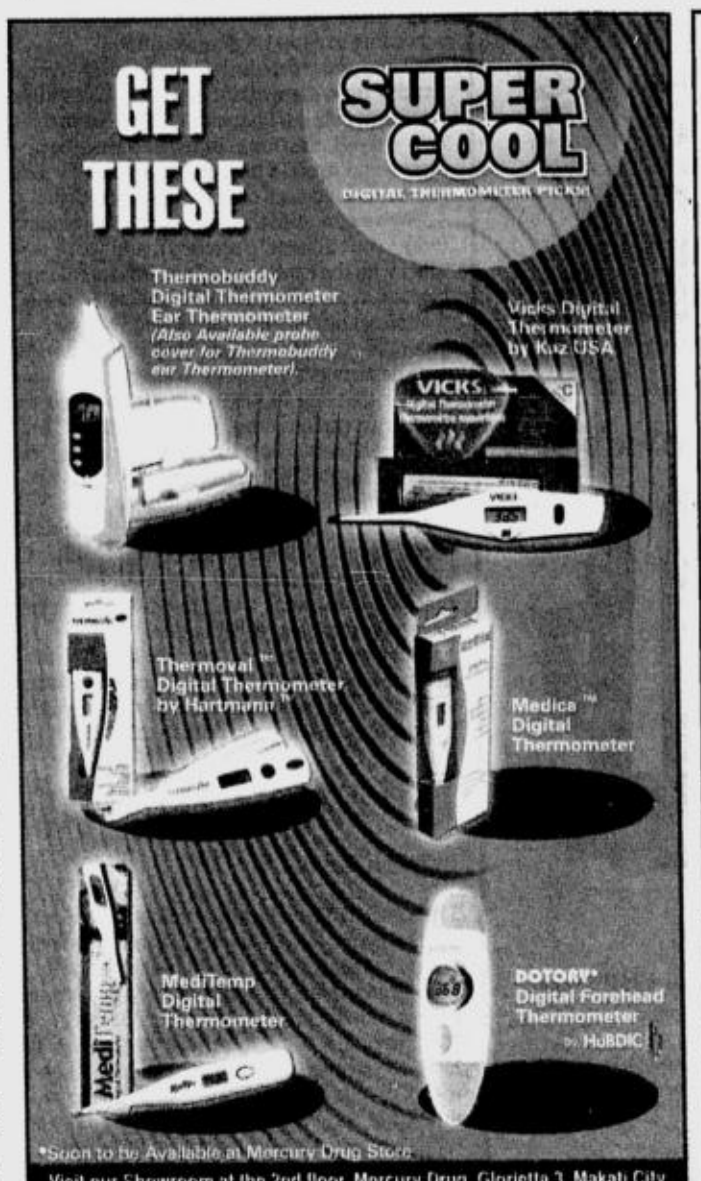
"We, for example, would be there in Congress for the inquiry into the wiretapped tapes," he said. The hearings are scheduled this week.

Carl Ala of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas said they would muster an even bigger anti-Arroyo rally during her SONA.

Ala said the KMP is planning another rally on June 30. Other leftist groups are planning similar actions in the coming days.

On Friday, more than 5,000 protesters demanded Ms Arroyo resign.

Despite the protests, Ms Arroyo remained in high spirits. Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said the President was pleased with the release of Robert Tarongoy and by US investment giant JPMorgan Chase's commitment to remain in the country. *L. del Puerto; C. Avendaño; AFP*



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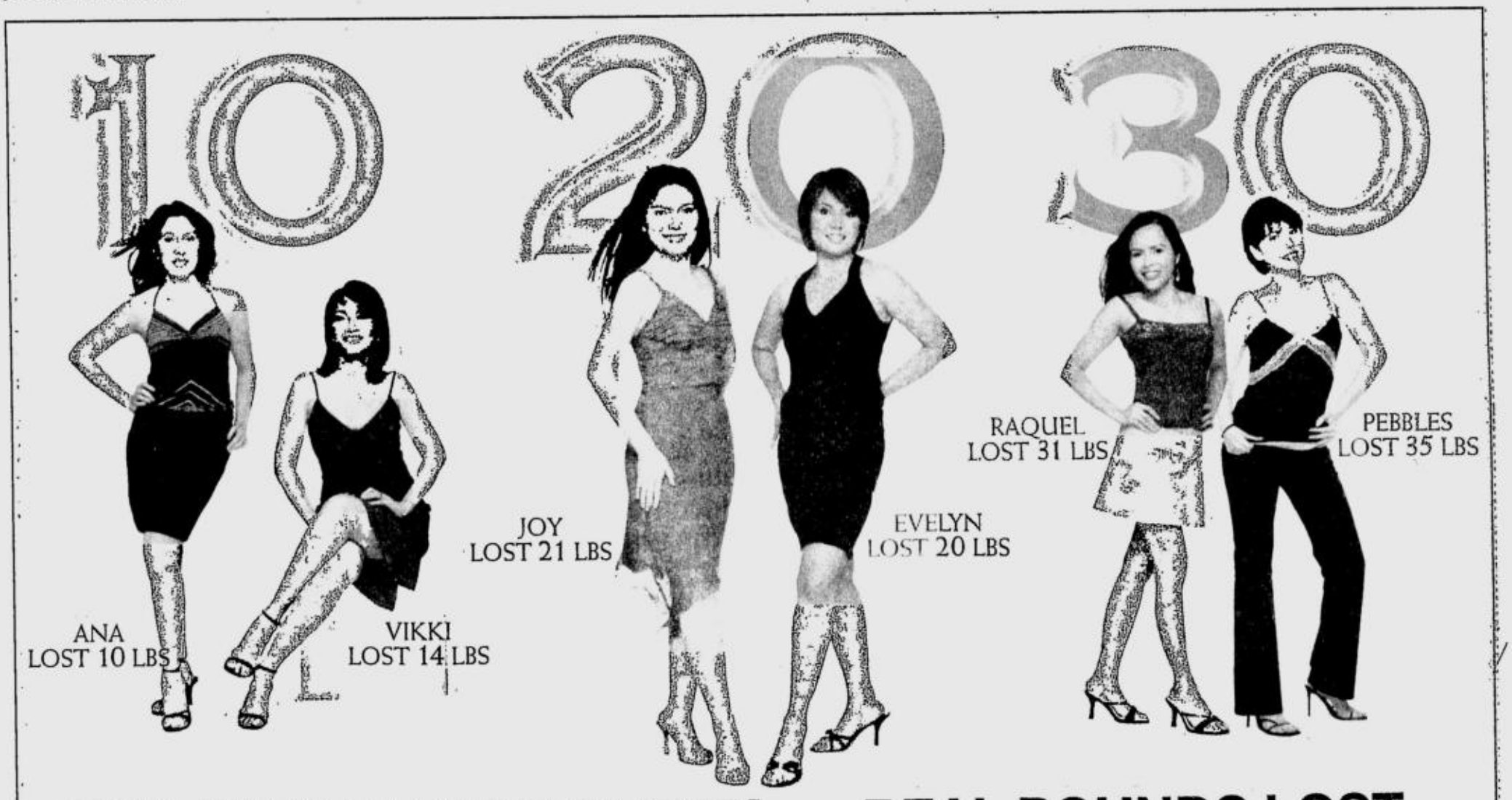

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China military assist to RP does not faze US, says exec

By Volt Contreras

NEW YORK CITY—The Philippine government's unprecedented move of obtaining military aid from China has not spawned concern from the its traditional ally, the United States, according to a top US defense official.

China, whose defense buildup has drawn wary scrutiny from the world superpower, pledged to provide Manila last May with $1.2 million in military aid—in the form of engineering equipment—and struck a bilateral agreement to hold regular consultations on regional security issues.

"We've discussed this with your government, (with) your defense (secretary), and we're satisfied with the explanation," the official told the INQUIRER at a briefing at the Pentagon last week. A representative from the paper was with a group of Asian journalists invited by the US state department to tour the country.

"Not that the Philippines was required to give us an explanation," the official said. "But they explained how it was in the national interest of the Philippines to expand defense relations with all countries, including China."

He said Philippine officials called attention to the country's "important, delicate bilateral and political relationship with China, and that it was natural that (the two countries have) a sort of security dialogue."

"I think we understand that," he said. "We appreciate how that relationship is going to evolve and grow. We respect the Philippines' prerogative to talk with who they want to talk to."

The official, however, expressed Washington's concern about Beijing's "dramatic" military upgrade which accompanied its newfound economic might.

The US government "respects China's right to assert itself internationally" and to safeguard its sea lanes and communications in view of its booming economy, especially one that is highly dependent on external resources, the official said.

But, he added, Washington still wanted Chinese leaders to be more "transparent" about how they planned to use its military might.

Defense delegations from both countries hold yearly consultative talks, but the scant details China was willing to share about its military plans had been "a point of contention" in the meetings, the official said.

"The key for us is to be able to better understand—and we've said it repeatedly to the Chinese—their intentions with regard to the significant growth in military power that is taking place," the official said.

"Capabilities we can judge. But the issue is one of intent. The other half of the walnut is intent: How do you plan to use those capabilities, what are your driving reasons for... this dramatically increased military spending, particularly the procurement of fourth-generation weapon systems and technologies?"

Asked by the INQUIRER what Beijing's recent military aid to Manila revealed about China's "intent," he replied, "They are determined to engage regionally, reaching out, establishing relationships."

RP seen to improve NoKor ties

By Nikko Dizon

THE COUNTRY'S ambassador to South Korea said the Philippines intends to strengthen its relations with North Korea to help ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula and encourage more international contact with the isolated communist country.

"It is one way of lessening tensions. You have to engage North Korea and let [it] see the other side of the world and try to cut down the wall of distrust," Ambassador Aladin Villacorte was quoted as saying in an interview in The Korea Herald on June 6.

The article was posted on the website of Korea is One (www.korea-is-one.org), an organization comprised of European nationals supporting peace and the unification of the two Koreas.

Sought for comment on the ambassador's statement, Foreign Affairs spokesperson Gilberto Asuque said there was nothing wrong with establishing trade relations with North Korea since the Philippines had diplomatic relations with Pyongyang.

Villacorte said in the article: "You have to bring them (the North) out as part of a regular member of the international community. You trade with them more. You exchange visits."

According to the article, North Korea's trade minister is due to visit Manila this month for a "bilateral agreement on the protection of investments."

"Then we'll have to expand bilateral trade relations," Villacorte said.

Filipino lawmakers, including Senate President Franklin Drilon, are reportedly set to visit Pyongyang this year.

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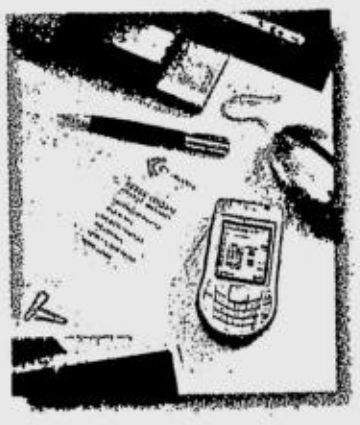

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CHEd to appeal Palace decision on AMA nursing

By Alcuin Papa

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education (CHEd) said over the weekend it would appeal a Malacañang decision allowing the AMA Computer College branch in Makati City to offer nursing courses.

CHEd legal service director lawyer Carmelita Yadao-Sison said they would submit their position on the matter to the Palace since they had 15 days to file an appeal. She said the Malacañang decision was not considered final because the CHEd only received its copy of the order, which was signed on June 3, last Friday.

She said that early last year, more than 200 schools applied for permits to offer nursing programs for school year 2004-05. The CHEd's regional offices nationwide, however, approved only 98 applications after a thorough screening.

After the applications were forwarded to the CHEd Central Office screening committee, only 52 schools were granted permission to offer nursing courses. In May 2004, the 46 other schools, including AMA-Makati, filed appeals.

Sison said CHEd took note of the appeals and gave the 46 schools until Sept. 30, 2004, to comply with requirements. At the end of the reevaluation period on Oct. 30, 2004, only 23 out of the 46 appellant schools were granted permits.

She said most of the disapproved applications were due to the schools' lack of a base hospital. Sison said that under CHEd Memorandum Order No. 28, a base hospital should have at least a 100-bed capacity and an occupancy rate not lower than 80 percent.

In addition, a base hospital should offer medical, surgical, obstetrical, gynecological, pediatric, psychiatric, communicable disease control, community health, nursing administration, and research and laboratory services, among others.

Sison said the 23 remaining schools followed up their appeals with the CHEd, including AMA-Makati which, however, also elevated its case to Malacañang.

In January 2005, 16 of the 23 schools were given permits. "With these actions, we contributed to the assurance of the delivery of quality education," Sison said.

She added: "We are not unreasonable. We gave them so many chances to comply. They (the schools) answered except for AMA."

Sison pointed out that it was only this month that AMA submitted documents verifying it would tap the Jose Reyes Memorial Medical Hospital as its base hospital.

She said officials of the school were "playing in two fields" when they submitted their appeal to Malacañang while continuing their appeal at the CHEd.

In a six-page decision, Malacañang ordered CHEd to give AMA-Makati a permit to offer nursing courses because CHEd Memo No. 28 had not been officially logged in the record of official orders, hence rendering it void.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Monday, June 27, 2005
13th Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Gen 18:16-33
Gospel: Matthew 8:18-22

When Jesus saw the crowd press around him, he gave orders to cross to the other shore. A teacher of the Law approached him and said, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."

Another disciple said to him, "Lord, let me go and bury my father first." But Jesus answered him, "Follow me, and let the dead bury their own dead."

Commentary

Again, the crowds are all around Jesus. Their need is public and Jesus crosses over to the other shore and a teacher of the law surprisingly comes after Jesus saying, "Master, I will follow you wherever you go." Jesus is realistic with him-this discipleship isn't an easy road. Jesus tells him that even foxes have lairs and the birds have nests but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head. Jesus has no earthly home-his home is rooted in his Father and he belongs to all the world-to all the crowds, massive numbers of people lost and looking for safety, security, sanctuary and those who follow him will know both all the world as home and no place really that is theirs alone. And the pressing demands and needs of others take precedence over family ties-not literally (one must bury their parents) but we must be sure that we don't look for any excuse to slip away from the crying needs of so many. Is Jesus really our Master and do we follow him everywhere?

Claretian Publications Inc., 8 Mayumi St., UP Village, Diliman, Quezon City, UP P.O. Box 4, Diliman, 1101 Quezon City; Tel.: 921-3984; Fax: 921-7429; E-mail: cci@claret.org; Websites: http://www.bible.claret.org (Claretian Publications Inc.) & http://missionaries.claret.org (Claretians in the Philippines)

ABS-CBN bares more newsroom changes

By Alcuin Papa

THE ABS-CBN network announced other new appointments in its ongoing reorganization aimed at taking back the top position in primetime TV news.

In a statement to the INQUIRER, the network also confirmed the appointment of former Cable News Network Jakarta bureau chief Maria Ressa as head of the network's News and Current Affairs division. Ressa was initially taken in as a consultant in the division in January.

Ressa's assumption of the position was reported in yesterday's INQUIRER.

The network's statement also confirmed that former ABS-CBN senior reporter Charie Villa was rejoining the network as Head of News Gathering. Villa was Manila bureau chief of Reuters TV Asia.

Luchi Cruz-Valdez, the statement said, would continue as head of the Current Affairs group, in addition to her responsibilities over the TV Patrol evening newscast.

Beth Frondoso will remain as supervising producer of TV Patrol, in addition to her new responsibilities over breaking news advisories.

Vince Rodriguez, one of the network's veteran executive producers and news manager, will continue to head the Studio 23 news operation.

JR Umipig was appointed Head of News Engineering. Umipig is a licensed electronics and communications engineer who has been with the Lopez Group for 18 years, having had broad engineering responsibilities at Sky Cable and ABS-CBN.

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Deadly honor code lives in parts of Mindanao

A WIDOWER holds the .50-cal. bullet that killed his new wife while she was preparing breakfast one morning. A member of a rival clan shot her and her husband has vowed revenge. AFP

IN PARTS of southern Philippines, where an ancient Mafia-style honor code still thrives, all it takes to spark an orgy of bloodshed is something as trivial as a stolen spare tire.

And so it did. A tire theft in 1998 led to two killings, a kidnapping and pillage as two branches of a Moro clan settled a dispute the way it had been done for generations.

First, Dalomabi Bula's nephew killed a second cousin accused of the crime.

Then, in a revenge attack, Bula's husband's construction business in Marawi City was targeted by the dead man's family which looted one of its project sites, killed a worker and kidnapped another.

'Rido'

English professor Bula, whose father died in a clan war sparked by cattle-rustling in the early 1950s, says burying the hatchet under the terms of the honor code, called *rido*, extracts a heavy price.

"*Rido* has been with all of us, Muslims and non-Muslims alike, since Adam and Eve were taken out of paradise. *Rido* will stay with us," she sighs.

Rido in local Muslim dialects refers to killings and other forms of violence sparked by perceived personal affront.

"A violation of this deep sense of personal honor rationalizes revenge and will legitimize killing someone whether he is good or bad and regardless of whether the cause of the conflict was legal or illegal," says Jamail Kamlian of Mindanao State University's (MSU) Institute of Technology.

Studies jointly funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Asia Foundation have documented 1,220 clan conflicts since 1930 in 11 provinces of Mindanao, home to a 4-million-strong Muslim minority.

The vicious cycle of violence has left 4,512 people dead and more than 3,000 injured or missing.

Researchers from Ateneo de Zamboanga University and Notre Dame University say deadly family quarrels have erupted over the flimsiest disputes, such as women eloping with men who were out of favor with their respective families or who failed to pay a dowry. They also break out over land disputes, electoral contests, or unpaid debts.

Blurred

Sometimes lasting for generations, the deadly feuds between family branches, rival clans or different ethnic groups, have blurred the roots of the bloodshed in a region that has seen some 120,000 deaths amid a relatively recent Muslim separatist guerrilla war.

On Mindanao, clan conflict is closely tied to "problems of governance" on the restive island and the ready availability of guns in the black market, says Abhoud Syed Lingga of the Institute of Bangsamoro Studies, based in Cotabato City.

Instead of going to the police or the courts, warring parties seek to settle their own disputes.

Shooting is the most common method of revenge.

More guns

"The initial move of relatives when a conflict becomes a full-blown *rido* (is) to buy more firearms," says Moctar Matuan, also a professor at MSU, who has studied 337 clan wars in the Lanao region.

Jowell Canuday of Ateneo de Davao University estimates there are at least 35,000 unlicensed firearms in the hands of civilians in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a self-rule area made up of five of the 11 provinces in the clan studies.

With heavy firepower brought to bear, clan wars have brought about large-scale destruction of homes and farms, he adds.

"More often than not, the origin of a firefight in conflict-affected areas in Mindanao is due to *rido*," says Army Maj. Dickson Hermoso, a member of a government committee monitoring a two-year-old truce between the government and the separatist Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"*Rido* is undermining the gains of the ongoing talks," he adds, referring to peace negotiations between the government and the MILF being held in Malaysia.

Cowardice

Hermoso says "people involved in clan wars seldom face prosecution in our justice system or end up in prison."

Among the Lanao Muslims, "recourse to formal law is deemed cowardice," says Monalinda Doro of Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

In the case of Bula's nephew, he was sent to a guerrilla camp run by the MILF instead of a government jail. Even if a killer serves a prison term in a government jail, he is "liable for retaliation" once the sentence is served, says Doro.

Warring parties use third-party conciliators and pay blood money or indemnity to reach a settlement. Peace deals are sealed by both parties swearing over the Koran, the Muslim holy book, and the initial aggressor throws a feast to celebrate the end of hostilities.

Bula says his family's dispute was resolved after mediation by a neutral relative and the deal was sealed with a thanksgiving feast. The kidnapped construction worker was ransomed and released unharmed.

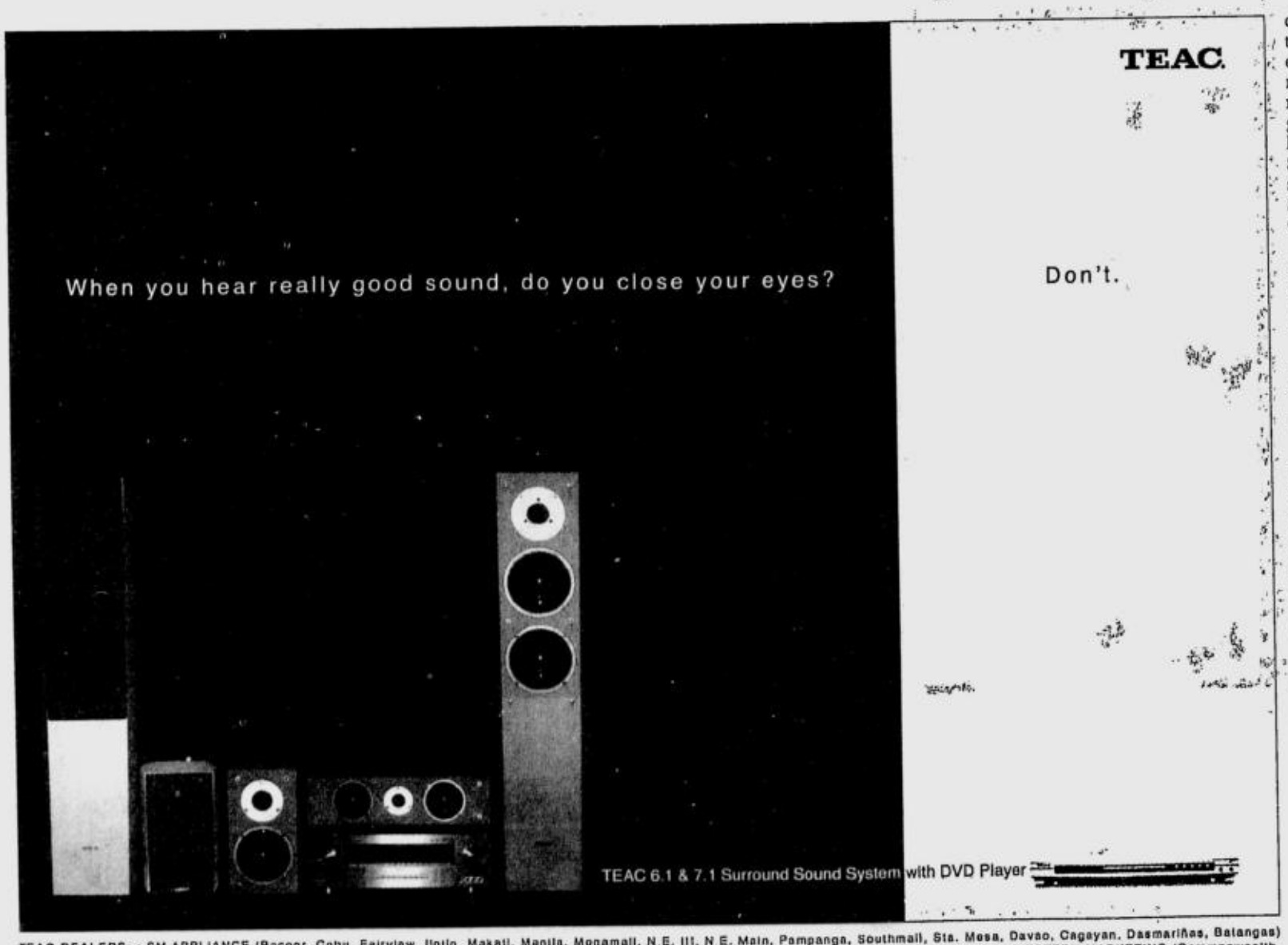
But settlements are not common. Of the 1,220 clan wars the studies documented, 60 percent remain unresolved.

Not every Muslim subscribes to the ancient code.

Rido is common in "most of the isolated, underdeveloped and unenlightened tribes of our country," says Ibrahim Paglas, patriarch of a wealthy Maguindanao clan.

Paglas, a former town mayor who now runs a 2,000-ha family-owned banana plantation, lost his father and four brothers to clan warfare but forbade retaliation as his family's contribution to bringing Mindanao toward political modernity.

"The families of those who victimized my family are working in the plantation," he says. "They had been forgiven." *AFP*



Traders beat museum execs to galleon treasure

From page A1

SCRAP dealer Charles Asuncion displays the Spanish gold and silver coins and the metal parts of the sunken galleon he had bought from a fisherman of Rapu-Rapu in Albay. NIÑO JESUS ORBETA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Belleza said she had asked the National Museum, through Assistant Director Cecillio Salcedo, to send coin experts and divers to Rapu-Rapu to look for the remaining treasure and other sunken galleons in the area.

She said that as early as November last year, she had heard stories about the treasure found off the island but could not find people who could confirm them.

Risky

Nilo Asuncion, 29, of Viga, and his cousin, Charles Asuncion, 36, who now lives in Barangay Rawis in Legazpi, disclosed that some of those who bought and hid the coins wanted to sell them to the Legazpi Museum so they could make more money. But they were reluctant to do so for fear of being penalized or imprisoned.

"This is the very reason why it took us quite some time before we revealed this and why we consulted Mrs. Belleza instead of the authorities in Rapu-Rapu, the police or the military," Nilo said.

He said there were several instances since late last year when local government officials and policemen collected coins and tolerated risky underwater treasure-hunting so divers could find more items.

Out of curiosity, Charles said he bought four gold and five silver coins, which he believed were the only ones left of the old Spanish coins recovered from the sunken galleon.

He said he bought the coins for P5,500 each.

"I was just interested to see for myself, so I asked one fisherman to show me a sample. At first, he was reluctant to show it unless I would really buy it. So I bought it and the others. But from the time I showed them to Mrs. Belleza, I became aware of the coins' importance and decided not to sell them to a certain Japanese collector," Charles told the INQUIRER.

Isabel 2

The four gold coins were dated 1862, 1863 (two pieces) and 1868, while the five silver coins were dated 1792, 1801, 1867, 1882 and 1887.

Belleza noted that the name of Carolus III de Gratia was inscribed on the 1792 coin; Carolus IV de Gratia on the 1801 coin; Isabel 2 and Porlag de Dios Y La Const Reina on each of the 1863 coins; Alfonso X Porlag de Dios on 1868, and Alfonso XII Porlag de Dios on 1882.

"Most of the remaining Spanish coins that Charles has bought have determinant value upon considering its physical condition of being discernible and exceptionally fine, for only two of the silver coins have slightly worn features—the 1801 and the 1887," Belleza said.

Numismatists collect coins not just because of their historical importance but because of their investment value. A coin's value usually increases with time. But most of all, rarity is the foremost determinant in grading coins.

An official of Barangay Viga, who also has a house in Barangay Victory Village in the port area of Legazpi, confirmed the stories about the sunken treasures quietly gathered by the fishermen. Due to his position in the village, he requested not to be named.

Blast fishers

Both Nilo and Charles witnessed how frenzied the local fishermen in their barangay had become, to the point that most of them stopped fishing for months because of the huge amount of money they got from gathering and selling coins.

Nilo recounted that a group of blast fishers in their barangay accidentally discovered late last year that they had blown up jars containing gold and silver coins.

He said some of the fishermen swam underwater and were surprised to find other items such as antique cups, forks, tablespoons, worn-out garments and metal scraps from the sunken ship.

A buyer of scrap, Charles never thought that what he had bought was a part of the sunken vessel. He bought the piece for only P60 per kilo.

"I often came back to my hometown to buy metal scraps. No one told me that it came from a sunken vessel until my Taiwanese buyer told me that this was not an ordinary metal because of its durability. Compared with the metals today, it is not welded and is made of pure bronze and copper metals," Charles said.

Sanctuary

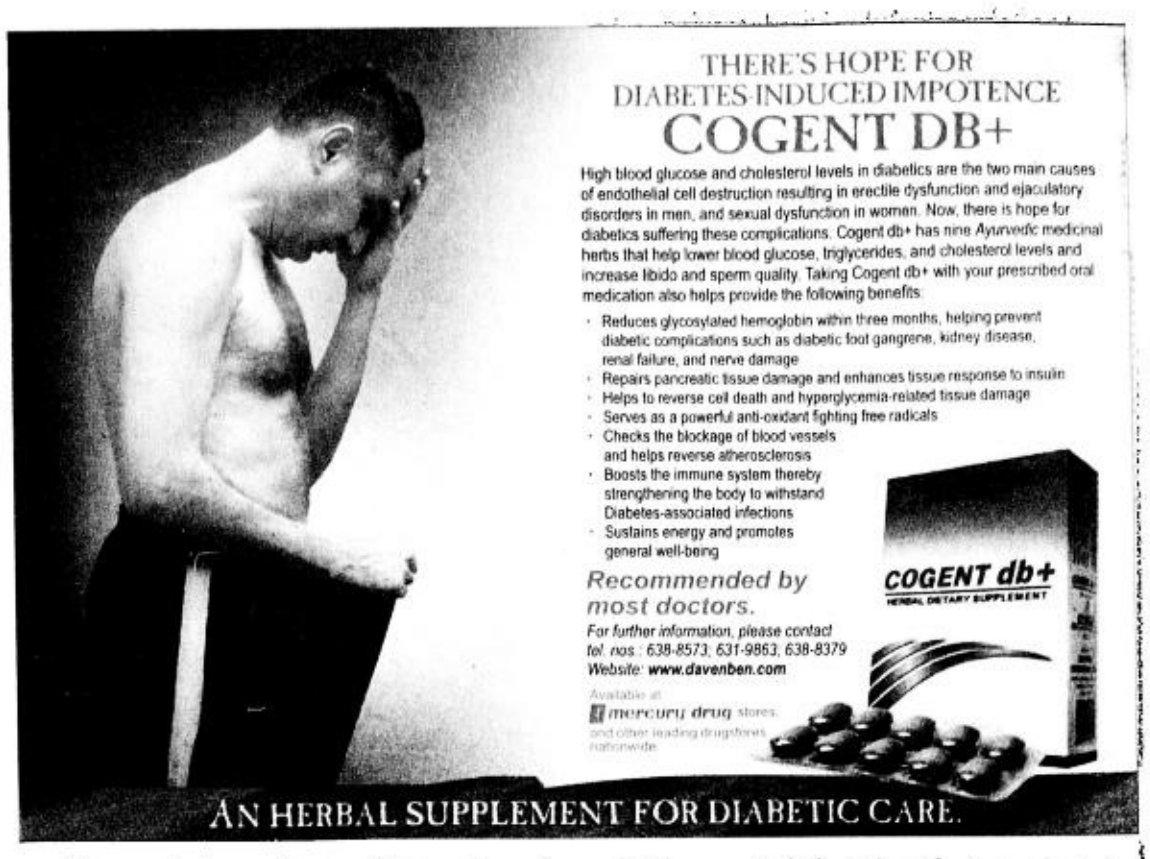
Historians and anthropologists, both here and abroad, have considered Rapu-Rapu Island a sanctuary for galleons, based on historical documents provided by the Legazpi Museum.

Due to strong waves from the Pacific Ocean, many Spanish galleons coming from Sorsogon found Rapu-Rapu a safe haven for their voyage to other parts of Albay. But some of them reportedly sank off the coast of Rapu-Rapu.

"So, most likely, there are still many treasures left. That's why we are asking for the expertise of the National Museum on this matter before it's too late," Belleza said.

In the 18th century, the Spaniards frequented Rapu-Rapu to prepare for an all-out war against Moro pirates. This went on until 1819.

Belleza said Rapu-Rapu was believed to be the springboard for the Moros who raided big towns in Bicol.



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'It's Not My Voice Movement' urged

From page A1

record that it is not his or her voice on the tapes until only one person is left to own up.

The tapes purportedly contain conversations between President Macapagal-Arroyo and an election official about rigging last year's polls.

The ingenious, if ridiculous, "It's Not My Voice Movement" was suggested by a University of the Philippines law professor during a forum on Friday, in which he explained the legal ramifications of the controversy.

"I can't understand why the President, when asked if it was her voice on the tape, would answer: 'I won the election fair and square,'" said Marvic Leonen, the UP vice president for legal affairs.

He said the identity of the voice on the tapes should first be established before anyone could talk about violations of the Anti-Wiretapping Law.

"If you're caught playing the tapes, and the justice department charges you with [violation] of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, welcome it," he said.

The prosecution would have to prove that someone's privacy had been violated, which, in this case, could mean "bringing down the government," Leonen said.

"For your defense, all you need to do is wait for the prosecution to fail," he said. Authorities would have to prove that the accused "knowingly and willfully" listened to a tape that had been wiretapped, Leonen added.

No government agency had gone out of its way to present the people with proof that the tape had been wiretapped, he said. Until then, no one could be convicted of the Anti-Wiretapping Law, unless someone owned up to being the voice, he said.

It was at this point that Leonen suggested, jokingly, to launch an "It's Not My Voice Movement."

Since the controversy broke, Ms Arroyo has kept mum on the tapes.

Press release threats

Hosted by the UP Center for Integrative and Development Studies, the "apolitical" forum's panel of speakers included journalism professor Luis Teodoro, engineering dean Rowena Guevara, and speech and voice experts Belen Calingacion and Arlene Bongosia.

Teodoro talked about the impact of the controversy on the media profession, and the transgressions on media freedom. He cited the "press release threats" by the justice department against media like Inq7.net for uploading the tapes on its site.

The other panelists talked about the technology available in determining whose voices were on the tapes.

Calingacion said no one can perfectly imitate another person's voice unless high-tech equipment was used.

Cyberspace protest

Cyberspace cowboys intensified their protest against Ms Arroyo by uploading more "Hello Garci" ring tones on the web.

As of Saturday night, there were 21 ring tone remixes available for downloading from the txtpower.org website.

A popular pick was "Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita," a hit song by the Maskulados: "... *Manloloko* ... (You dishonest person) Hello, Hello Garci? ... *lagot ka, lagot ka, isusumbong kita* (I will tell on you) ..."

What about an update of a Francis Magalona rap: "*Mga kababayan ko* (My countrymen), ... Hello, Hello, Garci? ... *dapat nang malaman nyo* (I think you should know) ..."

Or Billy Joel's stirring ballad "Honesty" as background music to the controversial wiretapped conversation purportedly between Ms Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Ring tone is message

"In this protest, the ring tone is the medium and the message," Anthony Cruz, convenor of TXTpower, said yesterday.

The rash of remixes came from musicians and even amateur artists who wanted to register their reaction to the controversial tapes, he said.

"We don't know them, we don't pay them, but we do ask some details about their compositions," Cruz said, adding that the downloads were free.

He said visitors continued to download the ring tones since June 17, when they posted the first "Hello Garci" ring tone.

Ringing success

"The ring tones—which last about 30 seconds—are smashingly popular because we have a smashingly unpopular president," Cruz said.

He said computer geeks also designed "Hello Garci" screen savers and wall papers—again for free—which could be downloaded by anyone, including government employees.

The website also carries designs for placards that can be downloaded and printed for street protests.

Snap election perfectly legal–Roco

From page A1

"Is the country worse than Sodom and Gomorrah? Is there no one righteous anymore? Sodom, at least, had one, Lot. Believe me there's more, there's still hope," said Roco.

He said the Philippines was far from being destroyed by fire and brimstone from heaven.

The 63-year-old leader of Aksyon Demokratiko, who placed fourth in the 2004 presidential election, slammed the continued silence of Ms Arroyo on the "Gloria-gate" controversy. He said Malacañang could not hide behind legal niceties.

"The problem is they cheated, yet they don't want to resign. That's the issue. That is shameful," said Roco.

Referring to the audio tape, Roco said it was the President herself who had documented the cheating in the 2004 elections, while Bunye released the evidence. Bunye played the recording to reporters on June 6.

Pimentel yesterday warned the administration was now "baiting" the opposition to file an impeachment case against Ms Arroyo on the pretext of upholding constitutional due process.

"Realistically, it will be very difficult to initiate the impeachment proceedings against the President. The proadministration congressmen constitute the overwhelming majority in the House and Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. will see to it that each one of them will toe the line by saying that the resolution to impeach is noted," the minority leader said.

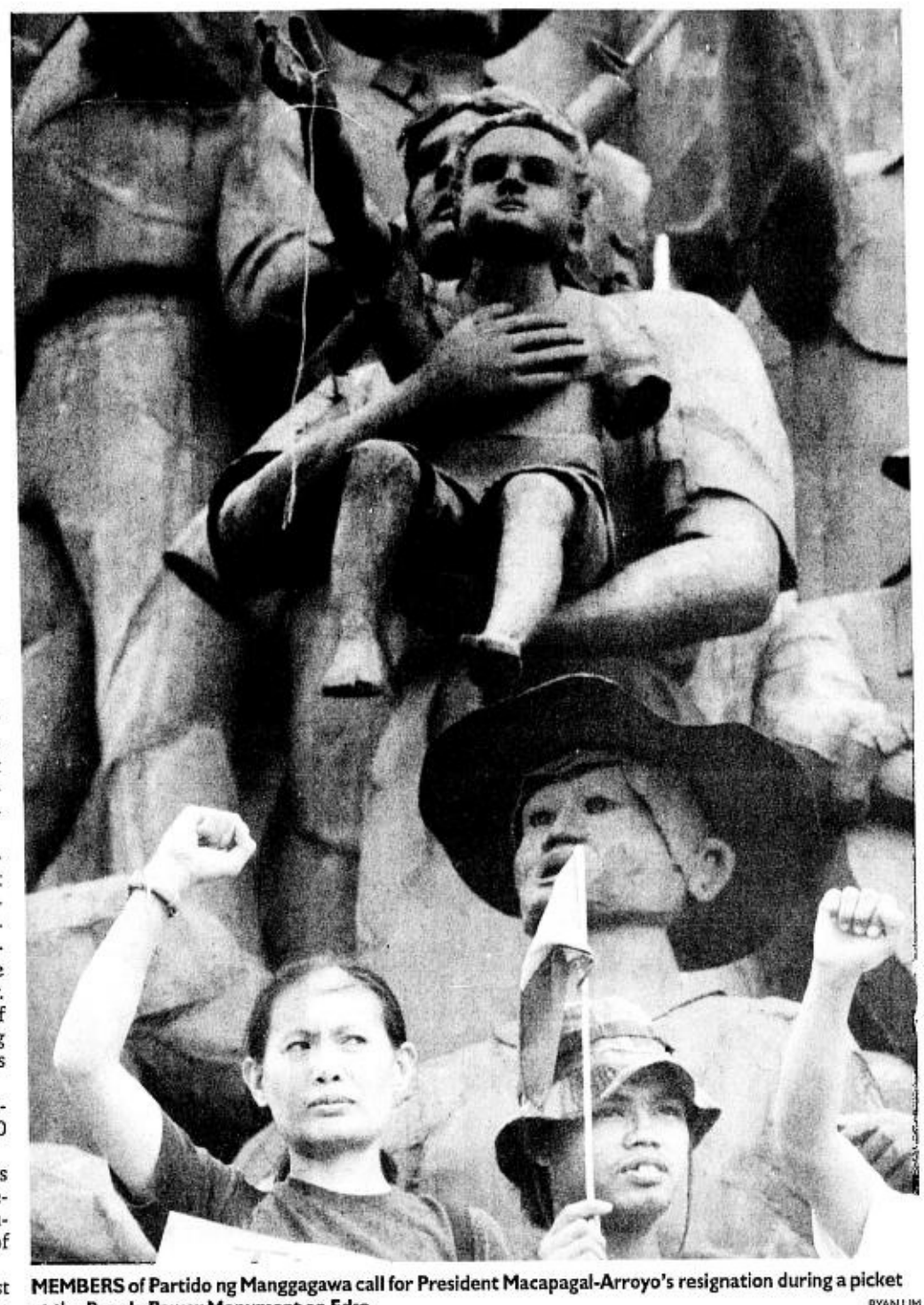
On paper, there are only 15 minority representatives out of 230 House members.

Pimentel said the resignations of Ms Arroyo and De Castro remained the only viable constitutional alternative "to get out of the mess she put herself into."

Pimentel said De Castro must also resign since he, like Ms Arroyo, was elected under questionable circumstances.

Tyranny of numbers

Upon their resignation, Pimentel said Senate President Franklin Drilon would, in accord with the Constitution, become acting president who will call for new elections to fill the vacancies within 45 days.



MEMBERS of Partido ng Manggagawa call for President Macapagal-Arroyo's resignation during a picket at the People Power Monument on Edsa. RYAN LIM

Pimentel said the whole nation witnessed how the President's party ruthlessly and consistently used the tyranny of numbers to foil every motion of the minority to open the ballot boxes in Congress and examine the certificates of canvass, statements of votes and election returns in the face of glaring indications of systematic vote padding for Ms Arroyo and vote reduction for her opponents.

He said impeachment was a highly divisive and very problematic exercise as shown by the aborted impeachment trial of former President Joseph Estrada.

If an impeachment against Ms Arroyo will not be satisfactorily resolved or end up in stalemate, the nation will again be plunged into a constitutional crisis, Pimentel said. This could have potentially disastrous consequences, the opposition senator warned. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, Norman Bordadora and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

Party-list group snubs summit

From page A1

amendments had held joint public hearings on the issues.

Mariano said the timing of the meeting of the technical working group was suspicious since it could be a cover for a loyalty check and coalition-building.

"But it will not stop the broadening and strengthening anti-GMA united front," said Mariano who has repeatedly said the Arroyo administration had lost the moral ascendancy to lead the nation.

"We urge the Speaker to add his voice to the increasing people's clamor for GMA to speak up," said Mariano, suggesting that De Venecia drop the so-called unity talks because it would only fuel more anti-Arroyo dissent.

Ms Arroyo has refused to confirm or deny if it was her voice on the tape in which a woman could be heard asking then Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano if she would win by at least a million votes.

"Like we said before, we will never allow ourselves to be used to save the increasingly isolated Arroyo regime," he said.

Illegitimate?

Beltran, for his part, said in a text message: "There is really nothing to unite with the Arroyo administration. Why negotiate or discuss reforms with an illegitimate presidency? The political summit is being used by the administration to consolidate the ranks."

Beltran urged other political parties to snub the meeting today and the larger political summit scheduled for July 11 to 12 and "instead press for the truth to be heard and support the (congressional hearings) by demanding that the tapes be heard."

He explained that the reforms the people wanted to see were the same reforms the administration did not want to implement. These include the repeal of the oil deregulation law, privatization of power generation and distribution, and a stop to land conversion.

"The GMA government wants approval for policies that will allow foreign firms 100-percent ownership of the country's resources. We will never support that," said Beltran.

Friendship Day revives RP-Spain historical ties

From page A1

Emilio Aguinaldo of the First Philippine Republic issued a decree in 1899 proclaiming that the 33 Spanish soldiers who surrendered to Filipino troops in Baler (Senator Angara's hometown) in Quezon—after a siege that lasted 11 months—"should not be considered as prisoners but, on the contrary, as friends, and as a consequence, they shall be furnished, by the General Staff, with the necessary safe conduct to enable them to return to their country."

While the decree recognized the bravery of the Spanish soldiers who defended for 341 days the last Spanish garrison in the Philippines at the Baler church against a siege by a larger Filipino revolutionary force, it also brought credit to the gallantry and to the nobility of the Filipino revolutionary leadership during the twilight of the Spanish empire.

The Baler siege has been considered by historians as one of the longest sieges in modern military history. It has been celebrated in Spain as an epic saga in its proud military tradition.

The names of the 33 survivors have become part of Spanish military lore as "Los Ultimos de Filipinas"; and a song, "Los Ultimos," has been dedicated to them and continues to be popular today in Spain. The song is played in restaurants by Spanish bands.

Of interest to the Filipinos is the fact that the Baler garrison held for 11 months after the capitulation of the Spanish capital in Manila on Aug 13, 1898 to invading American forces. The US intervention snatched from Aguinaldo the opportunity to capture Manila with Filipino forces poised in a siege of the capital.

Transfer to Iloilo

Iloilo entered the picture in December 1898 when Gen. Diego de los Rios, who was appointed by Madrid as governor-general after the fall of Manila, transferred the seat of government to Iloilo City, as a temporary capital, already the colony's second most important city as well as its cultural capital.

The choice of Iloilo as the last capital after Manila was natural and followed the logic of its history. Iloilo, with its deep water port, was during the second half of the 19th century, the early enclave of European capitalism and the colony's embryonic links to the emerging globalized trading system long before the term "globalization" was in vogue.

De los Rios surrendered the capital to the mayor of Iloilo City on Dec. 23. The Revolutionary Army led by Gen. Martin Delgado, had by then encircled Iloilo City.

Following the departure of the Spanish garrison for Zamboanga, Delgado's troops, reinforced by expeditionary forces from Luzon led by Gen. Ananias Diokno, made a triumphal entry into Iloilo, according to the book by the American historian John Foreman, "to the strains of music and waving of banners."

General Delgado renamed Plaza de Alfonso Doce as "Plaza Libertad," the center of this week's commemoration and the site of political rallies.

The triumphant Visayan Revolutionary Army was soon to experience American perfidy that made a victim of Aguinaldo who was excluded by the American troops from taking part in the capture of Manila on the pretext that they were aiding the Filipinos in gaining their independence from Spain.

Americans arrive

The dust of the Iloilo victory march had hardly settled when on Dec. 27, a 3,000-strong American military force led by Gen. Henry Miller was transported by a naval flotilla to the Iloilo harbor to demand the surrender of the city.

According to Foreman, Miller's force had been dispatched to Iloilo after the signing of the Treaty of Paris on Dec. 10, 1898, through which Spain ceded the colony, apparently under duress, to the United States, to make a demonstration of American might while the treaty was pending ratification by the US Senate.

While waiting for instructions from Washington, Miller bought time and made overtures with the Filipino leaders in Iloilo to allow his men to go ashore "to have a promenade" of the city's amenities, already known as "the Queen City of the South."

The memoirs of Capt. Epifanio Concepcion, an aide to General Delgado, gives an account of the negotiations between Filipino authorities and General Miller.

According to the memoirs, Miller said, "I request permission to go down to Iloilo as friends" in representation of General E. Otis, the commander of US forces in the Philippines. Miller wanted to "take a carriage to visit Jaro and Molo."

But the Ilongo official, Jovito Yusay, said: "We are sorry we can't answer the request without the consent of President Aguinaldo."

The Visayans, however, allowed the officers to take only a promenade. The Americans were not interested merely in a promenade. They wanted their officers "to help in the administration of the customs house run by Filipinos. The Americans said there were many complaints against customs for "inefficiency," etc.

Insult resented

A Visayan official, Francisco Soriano resented the insult. "We are not a sack of sugar which can be bought by American dollars," he told them. "We have struggled for our liberty like you. We will continue with the struggle until we triumph or die. You see, we are not Guinea slaves who can be bought without our consent."

Miller begged leave. Another conference was set for Feb. 12 1899.

Meanwhile, Filipino troops from Sta. Barbara, General Delgado's headquarters, and from all of Panay were mobilized and massed in Jaro.

The Americans did not wait for the deadline to lapse. Miller issued an ultimatum. He said all Filipino forces should surrender by 5 p.m. of Feb. 12, otherwise "Iloilo will be bombarded."

Miller said that American forces had been fired at by Filipino troops in Fort San Pedro, resulting in the wounding of an American Marine.

A US flotilla, composed of the warships Baltimore, Concord, Boston and Petrel, which lay at anchor in Guimaras Strait, began to shell Iloilo upon the expiration of the deadline. On Feb. 14, American troops landed at Iloilo and took it by storm.

Thus started the war of independence in the Visayas against the United States. Filipino troops fought the Americans in pitched battles in towns around Iloilo City. The resistance continued until December 1900 when Delgado surrendered.

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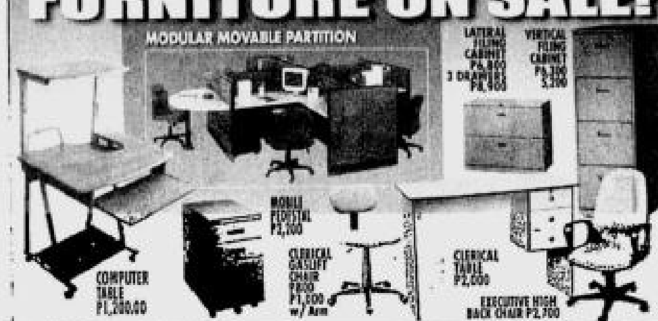

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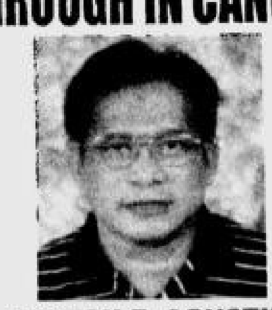

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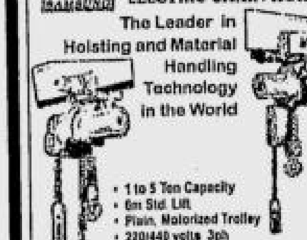

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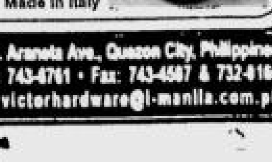

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Ahmadinejad triumph worries West

TEHRAN—Triumphant hardliner Mahmood Ahmadinejad faced Sunday international concern over Iran's future foreign policy and bitter recriminations from a beaten opponent after his crushing presidential election victory.

European leaders said Ahmadinejad, who takes office in August, would have to move quickly to prove that Iran's nuclear program was peaceful while the United States lambasted the election as showing the Islamic republic was "out of step" with the trend of democracy in the region.

Tehran mayor Ahmadinejad, who trounced regime veteran Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in Friday's second-round runoff with 61.69 percent of the vote, was to hold a news conference later Sunday to set out how he intends the govern.

A self-proclaimed religious fundamentalist, Ahmadinejad promised he would "build up an exemplary, developed and powerful Islamic society" and called on Iran to unite after what has been a highly divisive election.

However Rafsanjani was not going down quietly, repeating allegations of vote-rigging that have marred both rounds of the election and also lashing out at the hardline body that vets the polls in thinly coded language.

"All the means of the regime were used in an organized and illegal way to intervene in the election," he said, claiming that tens of thousands of dollars had been spent in a campaign to smear him and his family.

Rafsanjani and two reformist candidates beaten in last week's first round had already accused well-financed hardline regime elements such as the Guardians Council, the Basij militia and Revolutionary Guards of rigging the poll.

The regime has insisted the election was proper while outgoing reformist President Mohammad Khatami said the results had to be respected.

Ahmadinejad's stunning victory could spell the end of Rafsanjani's political career after a quarter of a century at the center of the regime. He has recently been seen by the West as a moderating influence in talks on Iran's nuclear programme.

Iran is currently engaged in delicate talks with European countries to provide guarantees its atomic energy program is not geared towards developing a weapon and Ahmadinejad's election swiftly triggered concerns over the future of the negotiations.

"I hope that under Mr. Ahmadinejad's presidency, Iran will take early steps to address international concerns about its nuclear program," British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said in remarks echoed by his counterparts in Paris and Berlin.

Ahmadinejad's victory also slams the door, in the short term at least, to Iran reopening ties with arch-enemy, the United States, an idea cautiously floated by Rafsanjani during the election campaign. *AFP*

Suicide bomber using melons kills 5 in Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A suicide bomber who hid explosives beneath watermelons in the bed of a pickup truck slammed into a police headquarters in northern Iraq on Sunday, killing five people and wounding eight others, police and hospital officials said.

The explosion partially destroyed Bab al-Toob police station in central Mosul, 360 km northwest of Baghdad.

The blast happened at about 6:30 a.m. in a busy shopping district that includes a market.

Policeman Mohammed Hussein Ali, 30, said he witnessed the attack in which a man who seemed to be driving watermelons to a market detonated his pickup truck just outside the two-story building.

"We didn't suspect him. Everyday we see such cars because we're near a market," Ali said.

All the roads were blocked at the time except for one that leads to the market, and the pickup truck was allowed to pass through a checkpoint, he said. The bomber detonated the pickup truck near a rear wall adjacent to the station.

Four policeman and a civilian were killed in the blast, police Brig. Gen. Saaid al-Gibouri said. The four were sleeping in a room at the police headquarters and died when the roof collapsed on them, Ali said. The civilian victim was killed on the street outside.

The wounded included police and civilians, including the station's commander, Dr. Baha al-Din al-Bakri and Ali said.

Elsewhere Sunday, a mortar round exploded at a house in eastern Baghdad's Baladiyat neighborhood, killing a woman and two children, police Lt. Col. Foad Assad said. One child was wounded.

Separately, gunmen killed police Col. Riyad Abdul Karim at his apartment in eastern Baghdad's Mashtal neighborhood, police Lt. Col. Hassan Challoub said. Karim was assistant police director of emergency services in the capital's Rusafa district, which encompasses the eastern side of the Tigris River.

The Mosul attack came a day after a suicide bomber trailed by five cars loaded with armed insurgents slammed into a wall outside the home of an Iraqi special forces police officer in the Sunni triangle city of Samarra, killing at least nine people on the street, officials said.

In another attack in the same region, insurgents rounded up eight police officers at a checkpoint outside the western city of Ramadi, then marched them into their office and shot them to death, police said Saturday. The attack was on Friday. *AP*

China's oil thirst seen contributing to fuel price hikes

TIANJIN, China—China's thirst for oil is contributing to the high oil prices that threaten Europe's economic growth, European Commissioner for Economic and Financial Affairs Joaquin Almunia said Sunday.

Almunia said world oil prices, which closed Friday just short of the $60-mark, were the most pressing issue facing delegates to a meeting of Asian and European finance ministers in the northern city of Tianjin.

"Even if they will be maintained at the present level of around $60 per barrel, of course they will have a negative impact on our growth rates," he said on the sidelines of the meeting.

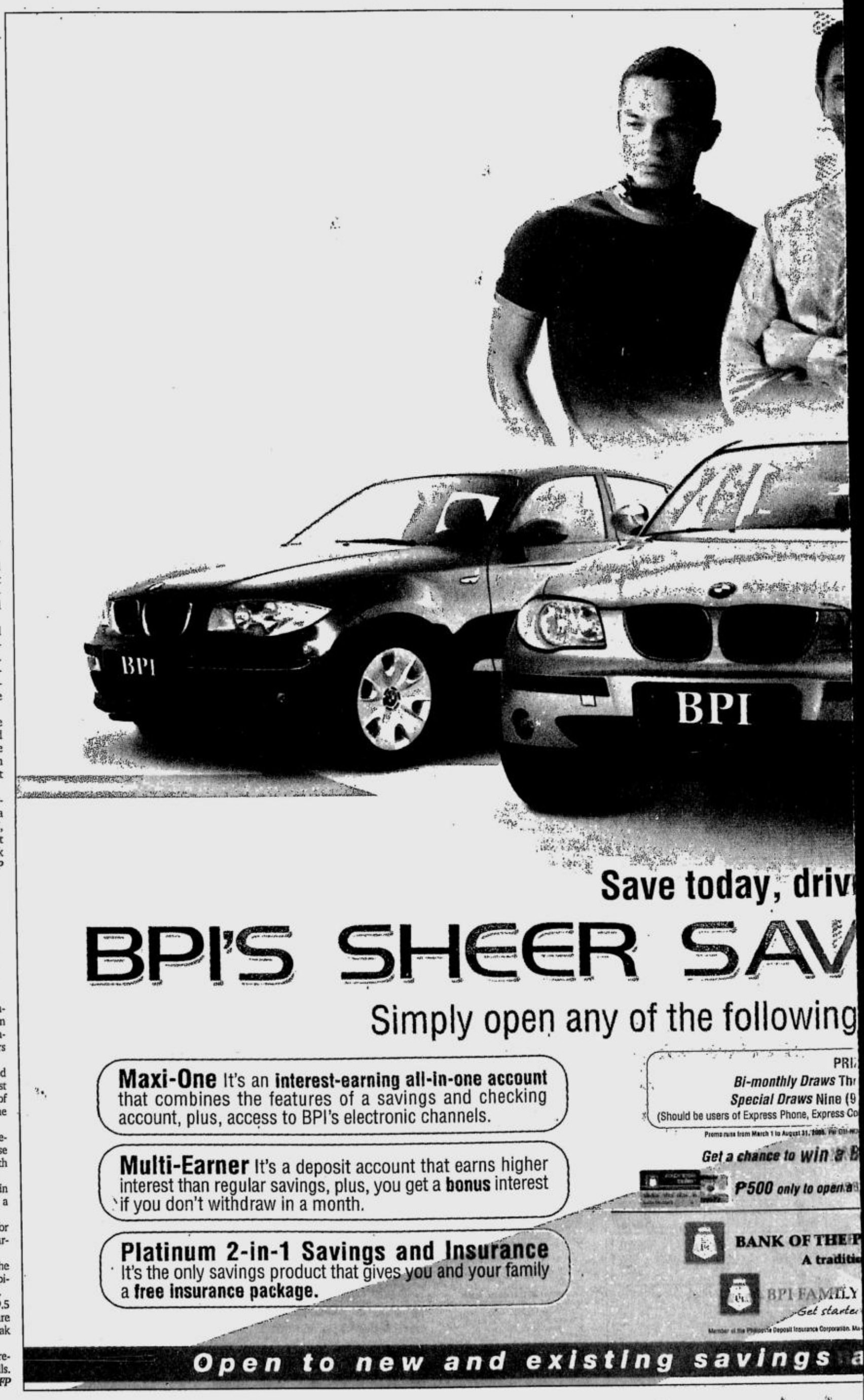
Almunia said prices were unlikely to fall in the near future, especially as China claims a growing share of the limited resource.

"It is clear that (it is) the Chinese demand for oil which can explain the situation of the market," he said.

China officially plays down its impact on the price of the commodity, pointing to low per capita usage rates compared to developed nations.

But its booming economy, which grew by 9.5 percent last year, is low on fuel and there are managed shutdowns of industries during peak periods.

The country plans to build up its strategic reserves of oil as a buffer against such shortfalls. *AFP*



Hope, despair in Asia 6 months after tsunami

VAKARAI, Sri Lanka—Six months after the devastating Dec. 26 earthquake and tsunami that killed 178,000 people in 11 countries and left another 50,000 missing and presumed dead, some Asian nations on Sunday held ceremonies to mourn those lost, while the survivors struggled to pick up the pieces.

In Sri Lanka—where a deal with Tamil Tiger rebels to distribute tsunami aid in guerrilla-held areas was only signed this week—the scale of the tragedy continues to haunt survivors, many of whom have yet to rebuild their homes and lives.

In India's worst-affected area of Nagapattinam, fisherman Ravi Shankar burned incense sticks before a coconut sapling planted by the tsunami-battered shore. The plant, named after his niece Nandini K., is among 207 trees planted in the memory of children who died at the spot. About 1,000 children from Nagapattinam planned a candlelight march later in the day.

More than 11,000 people died in India and fears of a new tsunami continue, said Namaswaya, the head of a local fishing cooperative in Nagapattinam.

"The water is very rough, so people don't want to go. There was also a rumor that there could be another tsunami at 6 a.m. today," he said.

Thailand's southern tourist beaches that once saw throngs of foreigners were eerily quiet Sunday, with luggage still buried in the sand, and posters for missing victims hanging on palm trees as grim reminders of what happened a half-year ago.

In Indonesia, where people gathered a day earlier to commemorate the 131,000 people killed, signs of hope filled the grounds of the Baiturrahman Grand Mosque in the heart of hardest-hit Banda Aceh, as wedding parties took place throughout the provincial capital.

Clad in a green and gold silk outfit and an elaborate headdress, Wanti Maulidar waited nervously for her groom to arrive for their traditional marriage ceremony.

"I realize today is the six-month anniversary of the tsunami so there is a sad memory. But this is also a happy day for us and a way we can encourage others to look to a better future," she said.

Before the tsunami, about 850 to 1,000 students came daily for Koran teachings at the Grand Mosque, said teacher Mutia Wati. Only 250 students remain today, she said.

In Sri Lanka's rebel-controlled Vakarai hamlet near the eastern city of Batticaloa, volunteers collected tsunami debris for an exhibition to mark the anniversary. School bags, books, shoes, tea cups, even television parts scattered by the waves were taken to the area's government school.

Organizers said the exhibition would help survivors work through their suppressed pain.

"The (aim)... is to bring out the psychological pressure of the survivors who are still suffering inside," said Shanthi Sivanesan of the British-based charity Oxfam. "We will have psycho-social workers at this center to counsel them."

"This pair of shoes, my daughter liked most," read an inscription written near a shoe.

"We can be what we were before," read another.

In Thailand's hardest-hit Khao Lak resort area—once crowded with tourists—only a few visitors could be found. Partly buried bags and clothes wrapped around driftwood littered the beach.

More than 5,300 people died and 2,900 went missing when the massive waves pummeled Thailand's southwestern coastline. Many of the victims were foreign travelers vacationing at beach resorts.

Hundreds died on the island of Phuket—the country's top tourist destination—where visitor arrivals have plunged and hotel vacancies have soared after the catastrophe. *AP*

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Tsunami may have spawned new disease, experts say

By Margie Mason

MANY who survived the killer tsunami waves recall first being smashed by the sheer force, then sucking in mouthfuls of saltwater, mud and sand as they gasped for air and struggled to swim.

In several cases, dirty water taken into the lungs was likely polluted with bacteria that moved through the nervous system to the brain, causing paralysis to parts of the body, according to report in the June 23 edition of The New England Journal of Medicine.

The condition has been dubbed "tsunami lung" by doctors who treated such patients following the Dec. 26 tsunami.

Researchers documented the case of a 17-year-old girl from Banda Aceh, the capital of Indonesia's Aceh province, the worst-hit area in the disaster. More than 131,000 died and some 37,000 remain missing in Indonesia six months after the disaster.

The patient was diagnosed with pneumonia two weeks after being dragged about one kilometer (half a mile) from her home by the mammoth waves. A week after that, the right side of her face became weak along with her leg and arm on the same side, according to the report.

She then stopped talking and had trouble swallowing. Her right arm and leg went limp.

Doctors aboard the USNS Mercy drained yellow fluid from her chest and gave her a series of drugs. The Mercy is a US Navy hospital ship that treated thousands of victims following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and tsunami and again after an 8.7-magnitude earthquake three months later off the western coast of Sumatra near Nias island.

The bacteria likely entered her bloodstream and spread to her nervous system, resulting in brain abscesses, the report cited Lt. Cmdr. Dr. Stephen L. Ferrara as saying.

After aggressive therapy, the girl slowly regained movement in her face and limbs and was eventually able to stand and walk by herself.

"Without the treatment she received aboard Mercy, it is almost certain that she would have died of complications of her tsunami-related aspiration pneumonia," Ferrara told The Associated Press.

He said the Mercy team treated four cases of tsunami-related aspiration pneumonia, but he suspects many others may have developed the disease and died before help arrived.

He said it's impossible to know how widespread the disease actually was.

"Due to the scope of the disaster, it is hard to estimate a number of potential cases since the actual death toll has never even been consistently reported," Ferrara said.

The Mercy's documented patients were all children and young adults who recovered after treatment.

Malaysia to study whether it has too many holidays

KUALA LUMPUR—Malaysia will examine the number of public holidays in the country as civil servants prepare for the introduction of a five-day working week, a report said Sunday.

Deputy Prime Minister Najib Razak said the country's 14 holidays, in addition to the five-day week to start on July 1, were excessive and would make workers less competitive, the New Straits Times reported.

The government announced in May that it would cut down the five-and-a-half-day working week which includes Saturday mornings, saying that the move would increase family-bonding and boost domestic tourism.

But Najib said the five-day week would not reduce workers' total hours, as civil servants would have to work longer hours each day.

More than 60 percent of Malaysia's population are Muslim Malays, while some 26 percent are Chinese and eight percent are Indians.

The combination has resulted in major religious and cultural occasions from each community being gazetted as holidays for the whole country. *AFP*

ISSN 0116-2642

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Vol. 20 No. 199

OPINION

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph website: http://www.inq7.net

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THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yagun and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.

•100% soy ink•

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Where we stand

EDITORIAL

THREE full weeks after Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye waved copies of the "original" and "altered" tapes before the Malacañang Press Corps, the situation has only gotten worse for the President. By delaying her response to allegations that she had been caught instructing an election official to commit election fraud, she has helped turn a legal dilemma into a political crisis.

To be sure, in the first week of the scandal, the President may have had very little choice. Judging by Bunye's remarks and the particulars of the "original" version he presented, it seems likely that in the first few days of the controversy the Palace was still at a loss; it had not yet figured out the true extent of the wiretapping. Palace officials assumed President Macapagal-Arroyo was the principal object.

But by the time ex-NBI deputy director Samuel Ong surfaced—on Friday of the first week—to say he had the "mother of all tapes," the details of the alleged wiretapping had become much clearer to Malacañang. When Ong failed to attract public support the following weekend, while holed up in a church sanctuary on historic Edsa, the President should have pressed her advantage. She should have spoken out.

The delay since then has only served to sharpen the public's appetite for the truth of the issue. It has allowed a million "Hello Garci" ringtones to bloom. It has also forced the President into a corner. By promising an "appropriate time" for speaking out, she inadvertently raised the bar of a satisfactory explanation to an impossible height.

Not least, by failing to speak on the issue, she has also drawn the so-called middle forces, her erstwhile allies, into the fray. A statement from the Ateneo de Manila community, for instance, does not mince words about the President's moral obligation to tell the truth. While the 300-plus signatories from the university where Ms Arroyo taught for many years recognize the possibility of "a calculated plot to discredit the government and destabilize the country," they also criticize the President for creating a climate of uncertainty.

"President Arroyo's continued silence on the matter serves only to fuel further speculation and uncertainty. Her refusal to respond to the most basic question of what is true or not about the tapes only lends credibility to the charges of fraud, further undermines her authority, and creates precisely the kind of unstable climate conducive to malicious conspiracies."

So this is where we stand, as the scandal heads into its fourth week. Four factors, in particular, bear close monitoring.

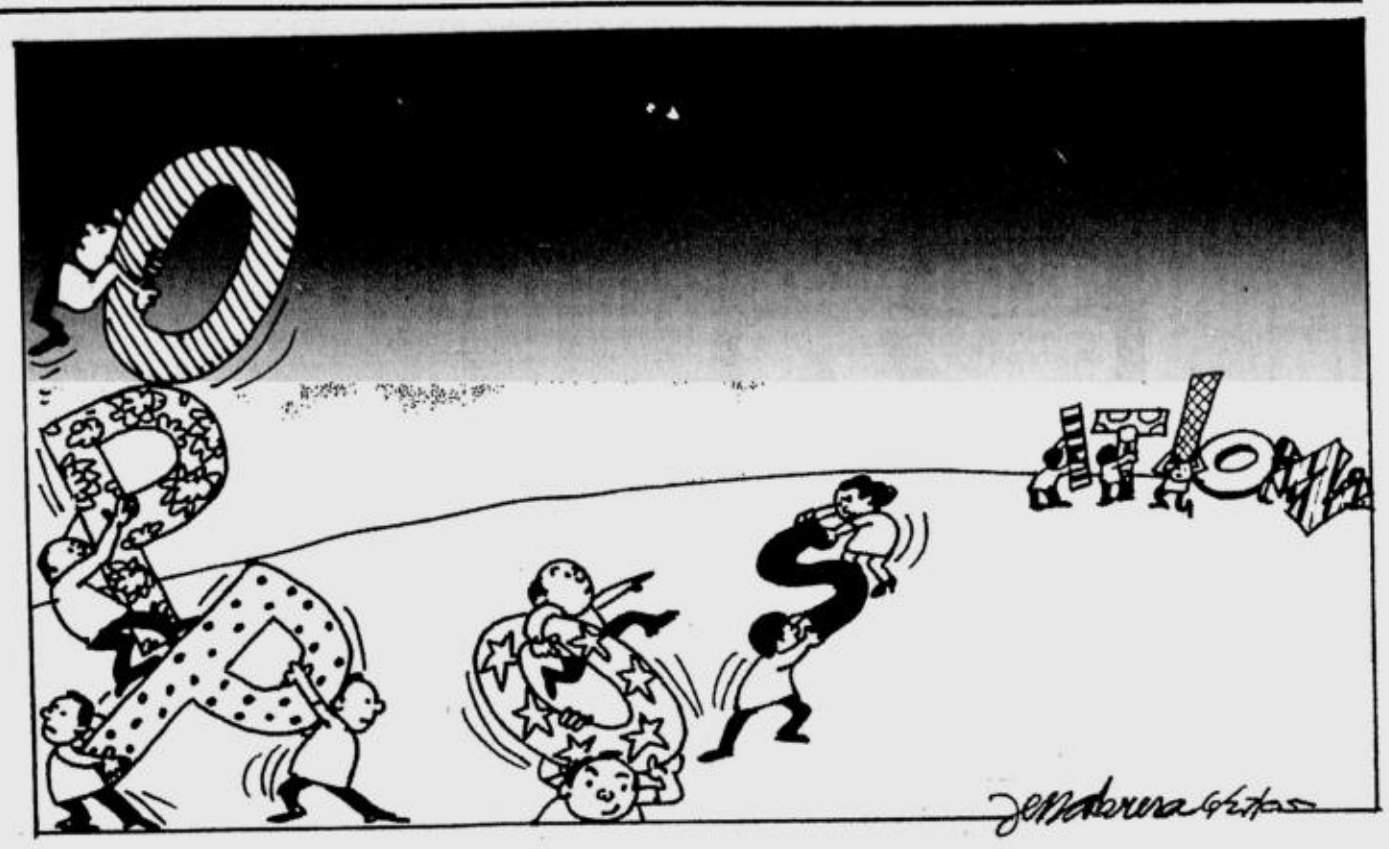
Will more people take to the streets? Mass protests have continued, but crucially, they have not yet attracted the middle forces. The Saturday march ex-defense chief Fortunato Abat called and then cancelled is an accurate reflection of his drawing power and organizing skills. On the other hand, the protest actions organized by militants on the Left have drawn the usual thousands, but they have yet to enjoy the sympathy of the majority.

Will more members of the opposition unite around Sen. Panfilo Lacson? Last week, the former presidential candidate embraced the cause of election fraud (complete with yet another PowerPoint presentation on alleged election irregularities). But if even other opposition leaders question the propriety of a former and controversial police chief wearing the mantle of the late Pope John Paul II, public reception for his Be Not Afraid Movement may be touch and go.

Will more political players call for snap elections? This is a transparent attempt to gain power for the opposition, and the public seems unsympathetic. If Vice President Noli de Castro's mandate is indeed tainted, then so would those of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and other senators elected last year on the basis of essentially the same certificates of canvass. Support for the call could be an index of desperation, or a recognition by the opposition that it doesn't have the numbers for impeachment.

Will the President finally break her silence this week?

The answers to these four critical questions will determine whether the political crisis will deepen, or whether some form of resolution will soon take shape. Whatever the answers, the national interest remains the same: The crisis must be resolved through constitutional means.



Tonight's the night

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

AND I mean the night of Kapihan sa Manila's special 20th anniversary dinner-show "Hello Garci." The show's real name is "20 Million Cups of Coffee Served and Still Serving," a very long title, so it was nicknamed "Hello Garci," for short. Yes, the Kapihan must have served that many cups of coffee during the 20 years that the breakfast forum for newsmakers and newswriters (it is the original Kapihan; all the others are imitations) was held in only one place, the world-famous Manila Hotel, the hotel with a history and the most prestigious in the Philippines. That is why the Manila Hotel is the first major sponsor of the affair. The others are Smart-PLDT, Pagcor, Duty-Free Philippines and Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Don't miss the show because you will regret it, you will kick yourself in the butt, and you will never forgive yourself if you do. Your friends will be talking about it for weeks and you cannot join in the conversations because you have not seen it, and your spouse and girlfriend will think you're a dunce.

You must be tired of all the hullabaloo over the Gloria-Garci tapes and the *jueteng* payola, so take a break and allow yourself to be entertained by celebrated mimic and satirist Willie Nepomuceno and his friends, and be serenaded by the Philippines' leading singers (among them Pilita Corrales, Nonoy Zuñiga, Marri Nallos, Juan Rodrigo, etc.). I guarantee that you will be singing the signature song of the show long after you have left the hotel.

Also, you will be helping Samahang Plaridel, the association of responsible journalists, preserve free speech by setting up a Freedom Park, our own version of London's Hyde Park where anybody can speak out against the government and public officials without being stopped, arrested or prosecuted. What happened last June 24 at the Welcome Rotunda when ralliers against the administration were stopped by policemen will never happen again. Anybody can speak out at the Freedom Park—even husbands who cannot speak out at home against their wives.

* * *

The trouble with Congress is that it has too many lawyers who nitpick on every legal technicality to grandstand and show the TV viewers how smart they are. The investigation of the controversial tapes has not moved an inch because, after three days, the congressmen are still debating whether or not the committee members should hear the tapes. The tactic is obviously dilatory, the same tactic used by administration legislators during the canvassing of the votes for president and vice president to prevent the opening of election returns. In any trial, delay is the only tactic left to the guilty. That is why the people believe there was cheating in the last elections.

But a hearing conducted by the House is not a court trial where the rules of court are observed. The hearings are fact-finding investigations to help in the writing of legislation and must therefore be summary in nature because legislators supposedly do not have the time. Common sense, not legal technicalities, must prevail in a congressional investigation. How can the investigators make their conclusions intelligently if they have not heard the tapes?

ABS-CBN shares the blame for the delay in the investigation. If the hearings were not televised live (but it should still report on the hearings without the lengthy interviews), the investigation would have proceeded faster because then the congressmen would no longer have an audience to show off to.

* * *

In the first place, is there still a need at this time for President Macapagal-Arroyo to say whether or not she is the "Ma'am" in the tapes? Or to determine the authenticity of the tapes? Even if she has not formally said so, she has already admitted that she is the "Ma'am" there by her silence. Because common sense dictates that if that were not her voice, she would have immediately disowned it. But she cannot disown it because that must be her voice and the tapes are authentic. She cannot disown her voice because a voice analysis will reveal that she is lying—again.

The congressmen may argue and hem and haw endlessly, but the public has already made its conclusion.

* * *

The President said she will not resign because she has a "mandate to rule." But that's precisely the trouble—she has none. The people think she stole the presidency not only once but twice. Unbiased legal experts say there was no constitutional reason for her to grab the presidency from Erap. Then she was caught on tape plotting to steal the presidency from his compadre FPJ. Many people believe she is an illegitimate President. So what "mandate" is she talking about?

She is also like a broken record, blaming the opposition for "destabilizing" her administration. But she is the one destabilizing herself by her silence on the tapes. While she is so noisy on other things, she does not speak up on the tapes. She should face the music squarely. She cannot be a leader if she hides from problems. She cannot lead people if she cannot answer their questions. Be brave, be honest, be truthful and God will do the rest. Virtue is its own reward.

* * *

Besides, the President may be barking up the wrong tree. The joke around town is that the man behind the destabilization may be a certain former president who wants to go back to Malacañang. When Erap was ousted, the talk goes, this guy was conveniently abroad to establish an alibi, but his former subordinates were very active in the oust-Erap moves. Now the guy is abroad again, and his former cronies are again active in the oust-Gloria moves.

GMA must be very careful about him. *Et tu,* Brute?

Progress

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A MOTHER finds out that her son has been murdered by a rich man during an altercation. There is prima facie evidence pointing to the fellow as the murderer. There are witnesses and there is the smoking gun itself with the rich man's prints all over it. While grieving for the loss of her son, the mother moves heaven and earth to try to get justice for him. She rails at the police, she badgers the courts. She vows she would not stop until she is able to bring the rich man to the dock.

Now, will you be appalled by what the mother is doing and deem her efforts a waste of time? Will you say what's done is done, life goes on, all that expenditure of energy won't bring the dead back to life? Will you tell her to stop all that nonsense, she has better things to do, which is to tend to her husband and family who are still alive? Will you tell her she is causing her family harm by spending her waking hours in that futile quest for redress?

Of course not. To even think that is to dissociate yourself from the human race. Mrs. Hultman did not stop until she found justice for her daughter, Maureen, who was gunned down by Claudio Teehankee Jr., and she succeeded in putting him in jail. Truly, it did not bring back the dead, but it brought order in the universe, putting it back to its axis whence it had been wrenched loose by the murder of the girl. While Mrs. Hultman fought on to find justice for her daughter, we all stood up and applauded. Sometimes a mother's grief and heroism are just two words for the same thing.

Today, the citizens of this country find their sovereign will strangled to death by the current occupant of Malacañang. There is prima facie evidence she rigged the counting, and rigged it good. There is her taped conversation with Virgilio "Hello Garci" Garcillano and there are witnesses to show the election returns have been doctored. While weighing alternatives for the nation, the citizens are up in arms over the usurpation of the presidency and seek justice for the murder of their most fundamental right, which is their right to vote. They cajole the dense and importune the indifferent. They vow they won't stop until they find justice for democracy.

Now, would you be appalled by what the citizens are doing and deem their efforts a waste of time? Would you say what's done is done, the Moving Finger has writ, all that expenditure of energy won't bring back the dead votes? Will you tell the citizens to stop that nonsense, they have better things to do, which is to focus on the economy which is barely breathing? Will you tell them they are causing the country harm by spending their waking hours in that arduous, if not completely futile, quest for redress?

Surprisingly, that is exactly what many Filipinos are saying today. The sentiment isn't just confined to Malacañang, the Supreme Court, and Bill Luz; it has been expressed by others as well, not least by some Filipinos in the United States. The reason this country doesn't progress, they say, is that the citizens are absorbed in scandal rather than in work. The reason this country doesn't progress is that this country spends its time bringing down leaders rather than helping them.

Well, if this country is absorbed in scandal, it is because there **are** scandals. The citizens did not invent them, their leaders did. No scandal, no outrage. Or at least, no real scandal, no real outrage.

This country at least does not try to impeach presidents who only betray their marriage vows, like Bill Clinton; it impeaches only presidents who betray the public trust, like Joseph Estrada, and—hopefully, if this country still prides itself as being part of the democratic world—Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. There are scandals and there are scandals. It is one thing for a country to ground to a halt because Michael Jackson is on trial for molesting minors; it is another thing for a country to ground to a halt because GMA is on trial for raping voters.

In any case, why would you want to help a President who not only has made this country the second most corrupt in Asia but who isn't even the President at all? Why would you think the very source of your current destitution will be the author of your future salvation? That's not unity, that's stupidity. That's not pragmatism, that's masochism.

The notion of ignoring evil to accomplish good is fundamentally suicidal, and is the one thing that has repeatedly laid this country low. You need not look far to see an example of it. That was what the business community, the Church and civil society did in the last elections. They tolerated evil, in the form of GMA patently overspending and colluding with the Comelec to defraud the voter, in the hope it would produce a good, which was to prevent FPJ from winning. In fact, they more than tolerated evil, they took active part in it. If they hadn't done so, we would not now have the "scandal" that has blown up in our faces.

What is wrong with that notion is not just that when you tolerate evil, evil riots to a point where it completely blots out the good you expect to achieve. You allow someone with a track record of ruthless pillage to continue ruling in the hope things will not get worse, things **will** get worse. But even more than that, you keep tolerating evil for whatever reason, you yourself change to a point where your capacity to tolerate evil knows no bounds. No, where you are no longer able to recognize evil at all. That is where we're going, a country that not only has learned to lower the bar on what is permissible until it is almost touching ground, but one that can no longer recognize evil. The business community, civil society and the Church now even call it good.

I have yet to know any country that sowed the seeds of plenty out of that soil.

Mutating tapes

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

IT was a wise decision made by the administration's finance cluster, composed of Trade Secretary Johnny Santos, Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima and Energy Secretary Rafael Lotilla, to hold in abeyance the full implementation of the VAT on fuels until the end of the year. They said this matter will be studied some more in view of vigorous objections from both suppliers and consumers. If the situation warrants, Congress might even be requested to repeal that portion of the new VAT law. This shows the administration's sensitivity to the pulse of the people, especially in view of the volatility of the current political atmosphere.

* * *

The fuel issue is hot potato, especially because fuel costs are expected to rise by about P10 per liter if the VAT were implemented. This could cause big economic difficulties as bunker fuel is used in factories, while diesel fuel is used in popular transportation modes. With the VAT deferment, the pump price of oil will still rise at about 50 centavos per liter, which is considered normal if oil prices abroad continue to rise. The additional cost will be tolerable even to ordinary citizens.

* * *

Former President Cory Aquino exhorted the people to give President Macapagal-Arroyo the "maximum benefit of the doubt." And she called for "sobriety" and more prayers in these trying times. I'm sure that Cory's support, which must have come after deep soul-searching, was most welcomed by GMA.

Many people I've talked to share Cory's thinking, especially because at this time there are just too many of those tapes lying around, and everyone seems confused about them. As NBI Director-General Reynaldo Wycoco put it at the House hearing, it's difficult to tell the original from the fake tapes. Is the original one of the Bunye tapes, the Paguia tapes, the Sammy Ong tapes or the Bacani tapes? As Wycoco put it, it seems *marami nang mga* "mutant tapes." Even Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez now has her own tape with a male, Visayan-accented voice supposedly telling Comelec Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano to push the proclamation of candidate Gwendolyn Garcia as Cebu governor, even before the counting was finished. Three Visayans are said to be the suspects here.

* * *

The word "mutating" brings to mind a movie, starring actor Dustin Hoffman, which showed how a deadly virus from a monkey mutated to produce an epidemic. This seems to be what's happening to the tapes. If the citizens and various sectoral groups haven't come out in support of the opposition's charges of fraud, this is due to the "tape mutations." Confusion over the tapes is also the reason why the call of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel for a snap election has failed to draw reactions from the people. A snap election was possible in the era of Ferdinand Marcos who then dictated everything that was happening. But now that we have a Constitution to govern the nation, a snap election cannot be undertaken without amending it. Pimentel, being a legal luminary, knows this only too well.

* * *

Speaking of Cebu, former Sen. John Osmeña, now a contented gentleman-farmer in Pamplona, Negros Oriental, called up this column the other day to say that I'm "very wrong" on the issue of partitioning Cebu. I said earlier that three last-term Cebu representatives, namely, Clavel Martinez, Antonio Yapha and Simeon Kintanar, are advocating that Cebu be divided into four separate provinces. The suspicion is that they want this so that they can run for governor—or, perhaps, representative once again—in the next elections. But I also said that the idea is not popular among the other representatives, notably Cebu City's Raul del Mar and Antonio Cuenco, as well as the Cebuano people themselves.

Osmeña said that, on the contrary, many Cebuanos, including himself, support the idea of four separate Cebu provinces. One reason for this popular support for Cebu's partitioning, he said, is that the island would get four separate internal revenue allotments (IRA) instead of one, as is the case at present. Under the Local Government Code, Osmeña said, each province is uniformly allotted P90 million. If Cebu province would be partitioned into four, then it would get P270 million more, an amount which could go to funding many more of the island's needs.

* * *

The problem of Cebu, says Osmeña, is that central Cebu—like "imperial Manila"—manages to get most of the funds, and the areas in the periphery of the province, including his district in Toledo, are neglected. Osmeña notes that partitioning has worked well for a number of populous provinces, notably the Davao provinces, and there is no reason it would not work well for Cebu province. He also noted that the two Cebu City representatives, who shared the view of Cebu City Mayor Tommy Osmeña, don't have a say in this issue as it involves the province only. But this is something Cuenco and Del Mar would vehemently debate with him about.

At any rate, the people of Cebu province will be able to decide on the issue for themselves in a referendum scheduled in January or February 2006. Expect the debate on partitioning Cebu to escalate from hereon until referendum.

* * *

I asked the former Cebuano senator, who ran under the coalition of GMA in the May 2004 elections, the question in the minds of many political pundits: Would she survive the political turmoil embroiling her and the country? Osmeña said she would survive "if she plays her cards right," adding that she hasn't done badly in the economic field at all; in fact she has done "rather well." GMA should take this compliment well as Osmeña is a person not much given to praising others.

Silence and rage

KRIS-CROSSING MINDANAO

Antonio J. Montalvan II

CHRISTIAN monasticism has a tradition of silence that is at once profound and formidable. There are Catholic religious monasteries, for example, where the evening period, which lasts until dawn, is a period of "Great Silence." In their traditions, silence is essential to prayer and piety and is deemed as a profound way of listening to God.

But non-monastic religious orders have also appropriated the tradition of silence. The Jesuits, for example, undergo the 30-day retreat of the so-called Ignatian Exercises, where the retreatants can opt for silence—that is, 30 days without conversation, unless it is carried out with the retreat director.

Then there is the non-divine side of silence—as the Mafia's dreaded "omerta"—the code that binds a mafioso from "spilling the beans" on a crime committed by a fellow mafioso. Needless to say, the violation of the code can cost a mafioso his life. This is one instance where silence is used as a tool for abetting crime.

But apart from its dramatic uses, silence is also practiced in everyday life, depending on the mores and customs of a culture group. There is the so-called "silent treatment" that two persons in a state of misunderstanding may resort to. In this case, the silence is broken when the differences are mended.

On the other hand, romping kids are sometimes hushed to silence by the adults in the household with a "shhh!" Silence has its golden moments, too. In another context, I have seen families whose table manners sway into delightful conversations breaking into wholesome laughters. But they make it a point never to laugh at other peoples' mistakes. They simply do not stab people behind their backs. Any sassy interjection is met with silence, a signal that such talk is uncharitable.

The dictum "less talk, less mistake" is another form of silence in the context of self-preservation. In another context, silence may be the only "choice" available to people under a despotic regime. Sociopolitical pundits refer to this kind of silence as a "culture of silence." But in the classic song "The Sound of Silence," Simon and Garfunkel remind us that "silence (is) like a cancer (that) grows." Taken to mean in a sociological light, the "silent majority" may be silent for now but not for long. Rage can be silent, but as a saying goes, "Silent waters run deep."

I want to understand what the silence of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on the "Garci" tape controversy means. And I am reminded of a real-life anecdote about a girl who was suspected of wrongdoing by her parents. The girl admitted her mistake—that was after her father spoke to her and told her one simple truth: the importance of a good name and the power we have to achieve that name.

Gloria told clerics in Cagayan de Oro that she is in a damned-if-you-do-damned-if-you-don't situation. The opposition will aim for the kill whether she admits or not that the female voice in the controversial tape is hers, she said.

Such narrow vision surprises me. I do not say she is guilty. It may not be her on the tape, after all—given today's age of immense technological possibilities. I give her the benefit of doubt. But if you listen to the tapes and read the transcript, and use as hypothesis that it was an official of a constitutionally independent body she was talking to—and she was at that time a candidate who enjoyed the perks of her incumbent office—then the matter is something that certainly should not be met with silence. That is precisely why I think she is not damned either way. She truly has a choice. At the very least, she can apologize for impropriety. And I think the Filipino people will believe her, nay, even respect her. Why, we have short memories anyway and, at best, we are easily forgiving. Look, we have forgotten Erap's midnight Cabinet carousals and Laarni's mansions.

On the other hand, if she does an admission and relinquishes power, won't she be hailed for statesmanship? Gloria is now at the crossroads: one direction gives her the choice to preserve a good name. A good name in history is priceless. But I do not think she understands the great value of the opportunity that now lies before her.

So what does her silence mean? Without saying she is guilty, I think it means this: arrogance. When a family member is suspected of wrongdoing, her family first asks: Did you do it? That is now what Gloria's Filipino family is asking. And ask they should. For Malacañang is not all about power. It also signifies service. But when the person who is asked simply ignores the question, now that is haughtiness. How much more if the silence comes from a person who has the obligation to answer the question?

If there is anybody who needs to be silent, it is the demagogues out there taking advantage of the precarious situation we now are in. Why, even Samuel Ong is suspect and shouldn't be off the hook himself. Why was he surrounded by FPJ's honchos? Why could JV Ejercito not hide his glee as he called in the crowd a la Edsa and declared that his father, detained in a villa, is ready to take the reins of government, as an interim president? Many opposition leaders immediately issued statements reminiscent, or even suggestive, of People Power. And Bishop Teodoro Bacani was no help either by impressing upon us a subliminal message, blessing Ong who is part of the problem. The demagogues must shut up. It is Gloria who needs to talk.

What we need at this time is a respite from our lying, blabbering, rumor-mongering, politicking national leaders. And what great silence it will truly be.

* * *

Comments to monta@cu-cdo.edu.ph

You can't afford to miss it

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

THERE are times when you have to turn your back on the ambitions of our politicians and dedicate yourself, at least for a time, to the pursuit of knowledge. And what better way to do it than to attend and listen to a rare gathering of world experts on arts, architecture, history and the other social sciences?

In conjunction with its inaugural exhibitions—"Power + Faith + Image: 16th-19th century Philippine Art in Ivory and Multiple Originals," and "Original Multiples: 19th century Images of Philippine Costumes"—the newly reopened Ayala Museum will be holding an international symposium, titled "Manila, World Entrepot: 16th-19th Century Exchange of Objects Between Asia, Europe and the Americas," from July 8-10 to be held at the Ayala Museum Greenbelt 4. The three-day symposium will focus on the links and exchange of objects and influences between Asia, Europe and the Americas during the 400-year Spanish colonial period and early American colonial period in the Philippines, with special reference to art and architecture, linguistics and material culture.

What does this mean? For centuries (1565-1815), the economy of the Philippines depended on leaky, rat-infested galleon journeys to and from Acapulco, Mexico. Filipinos went to Mexico, Mexicans came to the Philippines, and the exchange left its mark. As Wikepedia puts it, "Due to extensive Mexican-Philippine contacts, there are [about] 250 words of Nahuatl origin in the Filipino language, among [them] are *kamote* (sweet potato), *palengke* (flea market), *panotsa* (peanut brittle), *sayote* (chayote), *tiyangge* (seasonal market), and *tsokolate* (chocolate), and also place names, such as Zapote, a town near Manila, and Macabebe, and Sasmuan, towns in Pampanga province." Of course the Black Nazarene in Quiapo is from Mexico, too.

Here's a rundown of the lectures, each of them to be given by a renowned expert in the field. On July 8, Ramon N. Villegas, co-curator of "Power+Faith+ Image: Philippine Art in Ivory from the 16th to the 19th Centuries" will be holding a gallery talk from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Expect all sorts of amazing tidbits, such as the possibility that the largest ivory crucifix in the world, which is in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris, came from the Philippines.

On Saturday, July 9, Dr. Fernando N. Zialcita, a professor in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at the Ateneo de Manila University, will talk on "Material and Linguistic Linkages between Latin America and the Philippines." The talk will cover almost everything—from our using the Mexican word for market ("*palenque*") to our planting Mexican *chicos* and the Mexican's love for "Manila mangoes." That's from 9:30 a.m. to 9:50 a.m. From 9:50 a.m. to 10:10 a.m., Dr. Gauvin Bailey, associate professor at Clark University, Massachusetts, will be talking on "Artistic and Cultural Exchange on the Jesuit Missions in Asia and the Americas," which should interest every Jesuit-educated Filipino. From 10:20 a.m. to 10:40 a.m. Regalado Trota Jose, who is co-curator of "Power + Faith + Image" and a professor at the University of Santo Tomas, will talk on "The Iconography of the Virgin in Philippine Ivory Art," something essential for all collectors of "*santos*" and art students. INQUIRER columnist, NCCA and NHI Chair Ambeth Ocampo will then give a surely entertaining and illuminating response.

After lunch, my Ayala Museum boss, Dr. Florina H. Capistrano-Baker (author of "Art of Island Southeast Asia: The Fred and Rita Richman Collection in the Metropolitan Museum of Art"), will talk about "Multiple Originals, Original Multiples: 19th Century Images of Philippine Costumes" which art historians and—believe it or not—fashion designers and students of communications, should attend. Her exhibit and lecture take the concept of "tourist art" to new and exciting levels. From 1:50 p.m to 2:10 p.m., Johanna Hecht, associate curator of the Department of European Sculpture Decorative Arts of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, will speak on "Philippine Ivories at the Metropolitan Museum of Art: Emblems of Interaction." Been to New York? Then attend her talk.

From 2:20 p.m. to 2:40 p.m., the indomitable Esperanza Gatbonton (author of "A Heritage of Saints: Colonial Santos in the Philippines" among many others) will discuss "Collecting Spanish Colonial Art in the Philippines": this will make for a fascinating listening to legions of antique collectors. Then Dr. Margarita Estella Marcos (author of "La Escultura Barroca de Marfil en España") will discuss "Dated Philippine Ivories in Spain." A response will then be made by our cultural battle axe (and to my mind, cultural heroine) Corazon S. Alvina, director of the National Museum of the Filipino People.

Sunday, July 10, features a roundtable which anyone working in, for, with, a museum, or who has an antique collection, archive, or library, should witness. The topic: conservation. The participants, a glittering array of notables: Clayton C. Kirking, chief of Art Information Resources in the New York Public Library; Rachel Lapkin, collections conservator, The Newberry Library, Chicago; Graeme Scott, head of conservation, National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, the Netherlands; and our very own tireless Kenneth C. Esguerra, head of conservation, Ayala Museum. This, to use a popular phrase, is the "mother of all" intellectual technology transfers. If you miss it, and you work for a Philippine museum, you'll be haunted by the ghosts of documents and artifacts past. So see you there! You can't afford (culturally) to miss it!

For inquiries please contact Aprille Tijam at tijam.ap@ayalafoundation.org or via telephone: (632) 757-7117 or telefax: (632) 757-2787.

* * *

Comments welcome at www.quezon.ph/blog

Playing the tapes

SOUNDING BOARD

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J.

FOR the past few days now, members of the House of Representatives have been entangled in a debate as to whether the alleged wiretapped CDs and tapes can be played in the House and, if so, whether the hearing should be open to the public. These are two distinct but intimately related questions clamoring for answers.

The questions, to my mind, must be approached, first, from the perspective of what the ongoing House hearings are all about; and, second, from the perspective of freedom of expression.

I begin by assuming that the hearings are being held "in aid of legislation." If they are not, then there is no reason for the hearings to go on. But if they are, I see no reason why the recorded materials may not be played for the benefit of the members of the House in the exercise of their legislative authority. Indeed, individual members may have ulterior motives for wanting to have the materials aired; but ulterior motives are irrelevant if the hearings can come under the broad category of "in aid of legislation."

I say "broad category" because the Philippine Congress has plenary legislative power, that is, it can legislate practically anything under the sun. And hearings in aid of legislation need not be on the subject of an actually pending bill. Hearings can be conducted precisely for the purpose of finding out whether hearings on a particular subject can lead to the filing of a bill or bills. We cannot second guess what the House will find or not find in the hearings.

The hesitation about playing the tapes has ostensibly arisen from Section 4 of the Anti-Wire Tapping Act, which says that wiretapped materials may not be used in any judicial, quasi-judicial, legislative or administrative hearings. The penalty for the violation of the provision can include, aside from imprisonment, perpetual disqualification to hold public office. The concern about perpetual disqualification is giving politicians some pause. But I would not be surprised if this ostensible reason is not the real reason for blocking the playing of the recorded materials.

It has also been argued that it has not been established that the materials are products of illegal wiretapping. Indeed, the materials could very well be a work of fiction by an aspiring Filipino Spielberg. However, even if the materials are the product of wiretapping prohibited under RA 4200, I would say that legislators need not fear "perpetual disqualification" should they air or listen to the tapes in a legislative inquiry. Our Constitution says: "No Member shall be questioned nor be held liable in any other place for any speech or debate in the Congress or in any committee thereof." Jurisprudence has interpreted "speech and debate" as covering anything done in furtherance of the deliberative process of Congress. Thus, when a member of Congress presents a copy of the tapes and asks that they be played, what comes out is part of the legislator's "speech" and is covered by the speech and debate clause.

One other point. I take exception to the provision in Section 4 which prohibits the introduction of wiretapped materials in "legislative investigations." The reason for the immunity granted in the speech and debate clause is to give legislators freedom in their deliberations. Thus the Constitution, in authorizing Congress to conduct investigations, imposes only two limitations, namely, that the investigation be in aid of legislation and that the "rights of persons appearing in or affected by such inquiries shall be respected." Because of this second limitation, privacy rights may require that investigations be held in camera (not in open court/public). Common sense also dictates that if the material in a hearing can be an imminent cause of public disorder, the hearing may be in camera. In my view, however, a total prohibition of the use of wiretapped materials in congressional inquiries trenches upon the constitutionally granted authority of Congress. If for nothing else, the need to review RA 4200 is justification enough to make the hearings "in aid of legislation."

There is a hitch, however. The speech and debate clause protects a member of Congress from liability "in any other place," that is, in any place other than Congress. It does not protect him or her from disciplinary action by Congress if Congress finds that what he or she has said or done to be "disorderly behavior." And Congress alone is judge as to what conduct is disorderly or not. In real life, this means that the majority will judge! In which case, the motto "Be not afraid!" may become relevant.

Finally, we cannot discuss this matter without alluding to freedom of expression in general. The contents of the alleged wiretapped materials are not merely of private concern; they are matters of public interest. Even if they are the product of illegal wiretapping, there is good reason for allowing disclosure—as in fact they are already being disclosed by private parties. In the 1971 historic case of New York Times v. United States, New York Times won the right to publish stolen Pentagon Papers on the ground that the material was of great public concern. But what of privacy rights? Privacy concerns must give way when balanced against the interest in disseminating information of paramount public importance. Anyone who accepts public office also accepts an attendant loss of privacy. Jurisprudence is replete with assertions of democracy's "national commitment to the principle that debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open."

By way of postscript, let me just add that I offer no judgment on the authenticity or veracity of the recordings.

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, S.J., the INQUIRER's new column writer, always likes to make it clear that he is a Jesuit priest first of all and a lawyer by avocation, but enjoys being both immensely.

He was dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, dean of the Ateneo Law School, president of the Ateneo; rector of the Jesuit Residence of the Ateneo and provincial superior of the Philippine Jesuits. Currently he is dean emeritus of the Ateneo Law School. Aside from regular Masses and homilies, he also conducts retreats for students and for professionals.

As a lawyer, aside from being for a long time professor of Constitutional Law and Public International Law, he has also been invited by the Supreme Court to appear as amicus curiae in important national cases. He was also a member of the Constitutional Commission that drafted the 1987 Constitution.

It is from his dual role of priest and lawyer that he draws for his various writings in books, journal articles and columns. He is not a stranger to the INQUIRER for which he wrote a column in the early years after Edsa I.

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For the record; on record

THIS is to state for the record that I was not the direct source of the critical information in the news story "Red Cross members oppose plan to privatize blood bank." (PDI, 6/7/05)

As chair of the Philippine National Red Cross chapter in Benguet, I deny telling Vincent Cabreza of the PDI Northern Luzon Bureau that "the proposal had been an open secret, but PNRC officials have not been transparent about it," as the story suggested.

The process of consultation—inititated by the PNRC headquarters regarding the matter of rationalizing the blood service in response to new regulatory initiatives by the government—is ongoing.

In consultations with chapter representatives and heads of chapter board of directors held earlier this year at the Bayview Hotel, various scenarios and possibilities on how to go about this have been explored.

I do believe that this move is in the interest of the blood service workers and will put in the appropriate technical, procedural and legal safeguards to ensure the continued supply of certified safe blood to the needy.

Times have changed. The Canadian tainted-blood scandal of 1997 was an ominous incident. It not only left thousands of people infected with HIV and hepatitis C; it also caused the Canadian Red Cross to go bankrupt from the resulting law suits, and to transfer its blood operations to the new Canadian Blood Services agency.

Such a tragedy should not be allowed to happen in our country. That's why the blood service should be strengthened and rationalized through appropriate measures.

In fact, I have not received any information from the Benguet chapter that the so-called privatization of the PNRC blood banks has been approved.

That is what I said, which is vastly different from what Cabreza reported when he said: "We were told that it was approved by the PNRC board of governors, but PNRC chapters have not received yet any formal document directing us to relinquish control over our blood banks" and that "We were not even consulted."

—MAYOR NESTOR FONGWAN,
chair, Philippine National Red Cross, Benguet Chapter

TWO other Red Cross officials volunteered the information that the Benguet Red Cross chapter objects to the supposed proposal to remove from the Red Cross its administrative control over the national blood bank. This is all borne out by taped interviews and notes taken during President Macapagal-Arroyo's visit to Tublay town in Benguet. All of the three sources I identified in the story, including Mr. Fongwan, said they were simply informed about the privatization plans, and were not properly consulted.

—VINCENT CABREZA,
correspondent, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

A heated verbal exchange, not a scolding

I VEHEMENTLY deny a May 18 INQUIRER news item, saying that I was scolded by Osamu Murata, chief representative of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The truth of the matter is that I and Murata had a heated argument on the implementation of the Capacity Expansion Project of LRT 1. This incident actually happened some time in March 2005, around 11 p.m., when Murata at the top of his voice, called from Japan, and then and there accused me of allegedly delaying the implementation of the project, thus prompting me to likewise raise my voice to stress my point.

On the accusation that I was delaying the implementation of the project, I said that the minutes of the meetings of the LRTA board will disclose that the board acted with dispatch on all issues affecting the project.

What the JBIC really wants is the immediate implementation of the project, but this could not be done because the contract covering the project is "conditional," and the condition is the submission of a Multi-Year Obligatory Authority (MYOA) in support thereof. This is the contract that the LRTA and Sumitomo have entered into.

The very thing that the LRTA and Sumitomo—and JBIC, if it so desires—should work on is the submission of the MYOA; if not, the LRTA should show to the LRTA Board that it can provide for the peso counterpart out of its internally generated revenue; or the LRTA should secure additional budgetary allocation from the Department of Budget and Management as required by the board during its last meeting. But none of the three conditions had been met by the LRTA.

However, despite knowledge of the nature of the contract, Murata has been pushing for the immediate implementation of the project.

—GUILING A. MAMONDIONG,
undersecretary for Rail Transport, Department of Transportation and Communications, Unit 163, 16/F The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Wack-Wack, Mandaluyong City

* * *

WE would like to clarify the article "DOTC accuses JBIC exec of irregularity." (PDI, 5/18/05)

We would like to categorically state that we never accused Osamu Murata of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation of any involvement in irregularity. Neither did we declare him persona non grata and request his replacement.

While we complained of his harsh treatment of the Department of Transportation and Communications, we would rather resolve the matter in a professional manner.

—ROBERT R. CASTAÑARES,
assistant secretary, Planning and Project Development, Department of Transportation and Communications

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ROUNDUP

Trouble in Patrol 117

LUCENA CITY—The office of Patrol 117 is being swamped with prank calls, according to records of the emergency station. Arnel Yara, overall coordinator of Patrol 117 here, disclosed that of the 2,235 calls received from January to April, only 715 were valid while 1,520 were prank calls, mostly made by youngsters. Yara lamented that precious time and resources, especially gasoline, had been wasted in attending to prank calls. Patrol 117 officials have been making the rounds of radio stations here to call on the citizens to become responsible partners in maintaining peace and order by not clogging the phone lines with irresponsible calls.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Village chief held

CATANAUAN, Quezon—Police arrested a village chief, who had drink too many, for firing an unlicensed firearm inside a videoke bar here past midnight on Saturday. A report identified the suspect as Simeon Ortillano Jr., barangay chair of Matandang Sabang. Investigators said Ortillano and some friends were drinking inside the Bamboo Grill Videoke and Restaurant when the suspect drew his 9-mm pistol and started firing in the air. Responding police arrested the village official when he could not produce a license for his gun. *Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Old farmer arrested

LUCENA CITY—Policemen in Pitogo town in Quezon arrested a 77-year-old farmer brandishing an unlicensed gun during a drinking session on Wednesday. A report said police received a text message from a concerned citizen about Dionisio Bandora of Barangay Quezon, Pitogo town, who was then in a drinking session in a store with a gun tucked in his waist. When the farmer was being investigated at the station, police discovered that the old man had a pending warrant of arrest on charges of grave threat. The suspect was detained at the municipal jail.
Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Ordinance vs fake products

BUGUIAS, Benguet—Mayor Thomas Palileng recently signed into ordinance a measure passed by the town council that penalizes any person who fails to register and secure a mayor's permit before engaging in door-to-door selling. The ordinance was enacted in response to complaints of residents who had bought fake or low quality products. The provincial board on Monday approved the ordinance after the provincial legal office said the measure is allowed under the general welfare clause of the Local Government Code. Under the ordinance, the town will put up a center where all salesmen are expected to register their names, personal details, their company's profile and the nature of their products.
Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

3 hurt in blast

PIKIT, North Cotabato—Three persons were injured when an unidentified suspect lobbed a grenade at a drug store near the public market here on Monday evening, police said Tuesday. SPO4 Rodolfo Milagrosa, Pikit PNP investigator, identified the victims as Joven Gornez, 21; Richard Vallos, 23 and Rufo Aplosio, 38, all of Barangay Poblacion. Milagrosa said Rick Mision, owner of the pharmacy, had received an extortion letter but instead of giving in to the demand, Mision reported the matter to the police.
Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

MILF working to free trader

SULTAN KUDARAT, Maguindanao—The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Friday said it was working for the release of a Chinese-Filipino trader abducted by suspected members of the Pentagon gang in April.

Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said they received information that Benny Cota, owner of Solid Marketing in Cotabato City, was alive and in good health.

He did not provide information where Cota was being kept.

"We are working for his freedom. We are certain that his captors will not execute him," Jaafar said.

Jaafar said Cota could have already been freed had the military and the police not ignored the MILF's earlier information on his whereabouts.

"He was spotted on Bongo Island in Parang, Maguindanao. But there was no response from the military or police. We cannot operate in the area if there is no coordination with authorities," Jaafar explained.

Cota was kidnapped near his home on Doña Teresa Street in Cotabato City on April 8.

The military said members of the Pentagon were behind the kidnapping.

The gang has been responsible for at least 50 kidnapping cases in Mindanao, including high-profile victims like Italian priest Guissepe Pierrantoni in 2001.

In Zamboanga City, kidnappers of a Sangguniang Kabataan member of Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay have demanded P15 million in exchange for the victim's freedom.

Senior Supt. Edwin Soledad, operations chief of the Western Area Command, said the demand was relayed to the family of the victim, Irish Sarmiento.

Sarmiento, 18, was abducted with her boyfriend, Sapari Basa, while they were on their way to Barangay Silal, also in Payao, on June 20.

Basa escaped on the night of the abduction and reported the incident to the police, which mounted a search and rescue operation. *Jeoffrey Maitem and Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Prosecutors in Esperat case replaced

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez on Saturday confirmed the relief of prosecutors handling the murder case of crusading journalist Marlene Esperat.

Earlier, Tocod Ronda said he has been designated officer-in-charge of the Prosecutor's Office in Tacurong City.

Ronda said he was also ordered to reinvestigate the case after the prime suspects, Osmeña Montañer and Estrella Sabay, through their legal counsels, asked the Department of Justice to review the charges filed against them.

He said Montañer, finance officer of the Department of Agriculture in Socksargen, and Sabay, regional accountant, complained that they were deprived of due process during the preliminary investigation.

Esperat, a former DA employee who turned to journalism to fight government corruption, was shot dead on Maundy Thursday.

Before her death, she filed charges against several agriculture officials including Montañer and Sabay.

Nena Santos, lawyer for the Esperat family, said some "unseen hands" in the DOJ were using legal maneuverings to muddle if not derail the case.

Santos said Ronda, a government prosecutor based in Cotabato City, could never be impartial because he previously represented Montañer in a libel case he filed against Esperat.

The libel case has been dismissed, but Santos said Ronda tried to have it reopened.

Santos flew to Manila on Saturday to file her opposition to Ronda's reinvestigation of the murder case.

She said Ronda should have asked for a leave from the court before conducting a reinvestigation. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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Village execs accused of slay

BACOLOD CITY—A village official and three others were accused of killing a farmer whose head was cut off, chopped and placed in a sack and whose body was thrown off a cliff in Don Salvador Benedicto town.

Celso Toreno, a *kagawad* of Barangay Kumaliskis; Norberto Abian, Nelber Abian and Palot Ban-on were detained pending the filing of murder charges for the killing of Danilo Cañete Dagohoy, 40, also of Kumaliskis.

Police claimed the suspects tortured and killed Dagohoy on Wednesday. *Carla Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

NBDB Clarification

NBDB has never received a formal complaint against any book of Phoenix Publishing House. Last February, Phoenix voluntarily submitted three (3) books to the NBDB Textbook Review Service: ***Harnessing English Arts Today* (Grade 5), *Exploring Life through World Literature* (4th year) and *Simply Science in the Next Century* (Grade 3)**. The Ateneo English Department found the Grade 5 & 4th year English books "generally commendable" in which "minor improvements" are needed. UP-NISMED found quality of the Science book "poor" because its "language and cognitive level are way above that of Grade 3, ideas are poorly organized, BEC competencies are not sufficiently discussed," etc. NBDB has recommended to Phoenix to stop selling the Grade 3 Science book and radically revise it. There is proper forum for determining textbook quality.

National Book Development Board

Education execs in ARMM face plunder charges, says DOJ official

COTABATO CITY—Education officials in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, who were responsible for the non-remittance of almost a billion pesos in government insurance premiums of the region's teachers could be charged with plunder, according to Justice Undersecretary Macabangkit Lanto.

Lanto heads a five-member team that is reviewing records of the Government Service Insurance System branch here.

Teachers in the ARMM have complained about their failure to obtain loans and access other benefits from the GSIS. They later found that the Department of Education in the region did not remit their premiums from 1997 to 2003.

Earlier figures released by the GSIS showed that the non-remitted premiums, including surcharges, amounted to P968.7 million.

Lanto said that under the law, the amount of money involved was more than enough for the government to initiate the filing of plunder charges against those involved in the fund mess.

"A mere delay of payment is already a crime, how much more for the non-remittance of teachers' contributions to the GSIS," he said.

ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin, who also acts as regional education secretary, said previous DepEd regional officials should be blamed for the mess. He declined to name them.

The problem had been existing when he assumed office, he said.

Hussin assumed the post when former DepEd Secretary and Vice Gov. Mahid Mutilan ran for governor in Lanao del Sur in 2004. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Ifugao micro-hydro projects to be replicated in Ecija farming towns

By Desiree Caluza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

KIANGAN, Ifugao—This province's community-led micro-hydro power projects will be replicated in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya to energize farming communities there.

The establishment of the micro-hydro plants in the two provinces will provide electricity to the farming villages of Minuli and Capintalan in Carranglan, Nueva Ecija, and some villages in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya, said Shubert Ciencia, spokesperson of the Rice Watch and Action Network of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement here.

"This has no impact on the environment, you will just use water to make the turbine rotate, so it will not expel pollutants," Ciencia said.

Ifugaos first used a micro-hydro plant built by the province's farmers at Barangay Gode in Hungduan town in 1995.

The Ifugao micro-hydro plant has been hailed as an innovative local sustainable energy scheme.

Ciencia said the technology is a "kitchen-garden" project that has to be developed for long-term use.

"[The micro-hydro project] has to be developed to make it work more efficiently. It can light up households, but we have a long-term vision, we hope that this micro-hydro plant can generate more power to provide enough power to industries like rice mills," Ciencia said.

He said they took the technology to Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya because some villages in these areas have yet to be energized.

Putting up power lines to connect these villages to the Luzon grid is more expensive than adopting the Ifugao energy scheme that taps water flowing in these places, he said.

Ifugao villagers call smaller models of the micro-hydro plant *kimkimmit* or firefly. The *kimkimmit* is used to charge 12-volt batteries to power light bulbs in 20 households.

Ciencia said compared to Ifugao, the farming villages in Nueva Ecija and Nueva Vizcaya would need a larger volume of power to supply at least 50 households.

The micro-hydro plant works like a large dam without the pollution.

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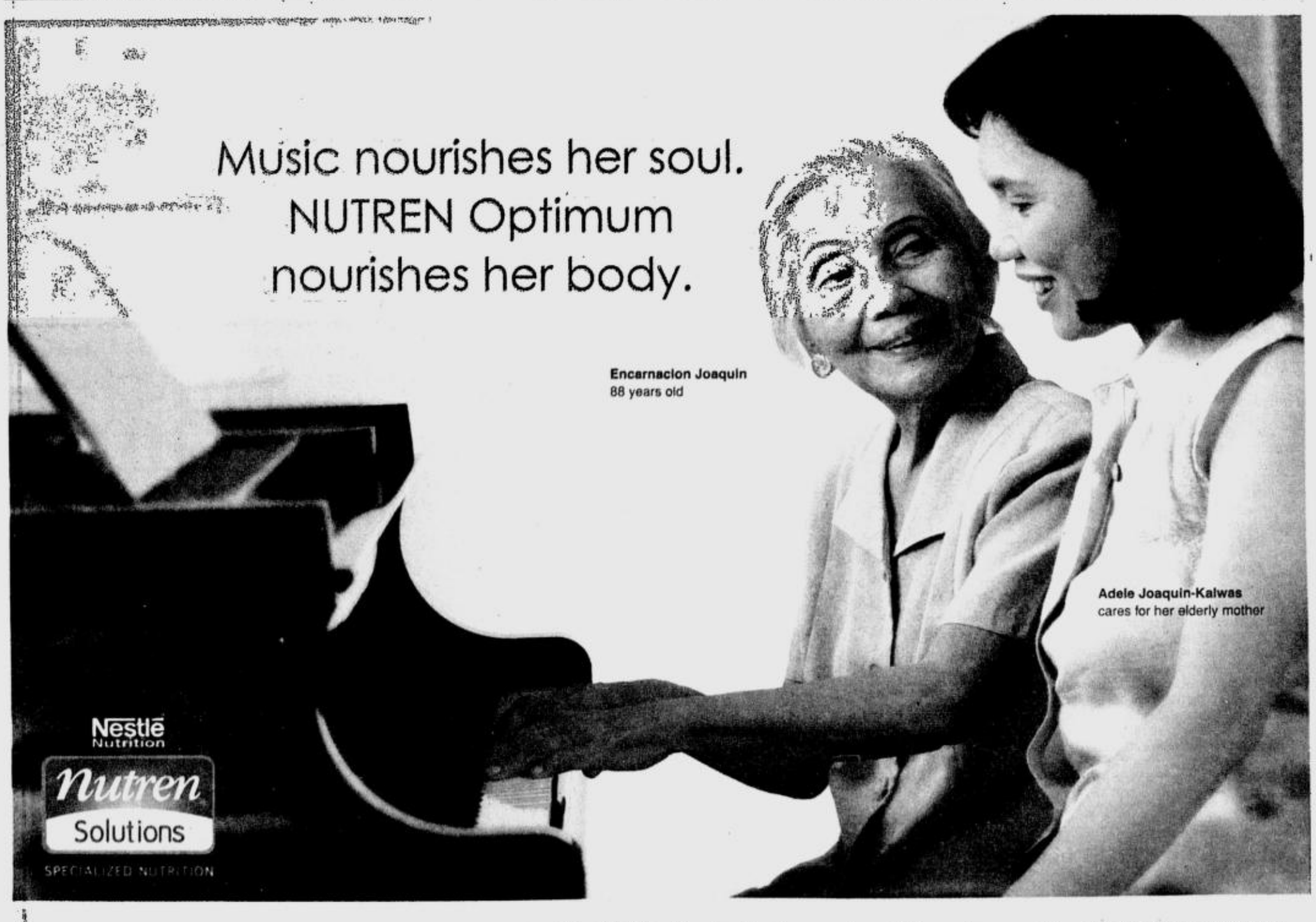

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[1] Walzem, R.L., C.J. Dillard, and J.B. German. Crit. Rev. Food & Sci & Nutr. 42:353, 2002. [2] Meister A. Cancer Res 1994;54(8):1969-1975.

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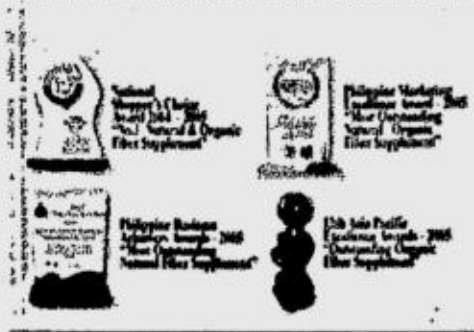

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Jarque cleared of attempted murder charge after 13 years

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—After almost 13 years, the Sandiganbayan has dismissed the last of the six cases that drove retired Brig. Gen. Raymundo Jarque to join communist rebels about 10 years ago.

The anti-graft court on Tuesday cleared Jarque and 1st Lt. Arthur Tupaz of attempted murder for lack of evidence.

Sandiganbayan Associate Justice Diosdado Peralta ordered the release of the cash bonds the accused posted and the recall of the hold-departure order issued by the court on Feb. 23, 1993.

The complainants, Danilo Vergara and Enrique Marivalles, accused Jarque of issuing orders to shoot and kill them on Sept. 2, 1991 in Barangay Pacol, Valladolid town.

They claimed that Jarque and Tupaz got mad at them because of their association with Magdaleno Peña, a businessman who filed cases of graft, robbery and three counts of qualified theft against the military officers. The cases were dismissed by the Supreme Court in 2004.

Peña filed the cases when Jarque, then head of the Army's Negros Island Command (Nicom), his men and Philippine Constabulary-Criminal Investigation Service (PC-CIS) personnel implemented a court order, reinstating Peña's brother as administrator to their grandmother's properties.

The cases prompted Jarque to join the New People's Army on Oct. 10, 1995. He expressed doubts that he would get justice from the courts.

With the dismissal of all six cases, Jarque said he and his family were happy that their family honor has been vindicated.

He said the cases filed by Peña disrupted his military career that spanned 33 years, so he fled to the hills in search for justice.

Still, Jarque said he would not let Peña escape for the damage inflicted on them. He said his lawyers would study the possibility of filing a damage suit against the businessman.

"We will give back to him what he has done to us," he said.

Tupaz, Jarque's aide-de-camp when the general was Nicom chief in 1988-91, said he only learned of the dismissal of all the cases on Tuesday and wondered why the decision took so long to be promulgated.

The cases stemmed from the dispute between Magdaleno and his brother Bonifacio over their grandmother's property.

Bonifacio used to manage the properties and businesses of their grandmother Soledad Montilla and was then in possession of her residential house in Pulupandan town.

But on April 3, 1990, Montilla executed a Special Power of Attorney, appointing Magdaleno as her attorney-in-fact and giving him the powers to supervise, control and manage her properties.

Bonifacio was eventually ejected from Montilla's house when Magdaleno took over.

When Bonifacio threatened to evict Magdaleno from the house, the latter filed a petition for injunction before a court in Bago City.

The court denied Magdaleno's petition and reinstated Bonifacio as administrator to Montilla's properties.

Jarque's men assisted the PC-CIS in implementing the court order but they ended up being charged in court.

Peña filed robbery, graft and qualified theft charges against Jarque and his men—Tupaz and Majors Aguedo Vilches and Benjamin Marchan.

Also charged were Capt. Ramiro de Joya and Sergeants Leopoldo Marfil, Alexis Gonzales, Eduardo Jison, Alexander Tan and Rosendo Bersal of the PC-CIS.

Included in the cases were then Pulupandan Mayor Antonio Suatengco, the businessman's brother-in-law; lawyer Allan Zamora and PC-CIS civilian agents Eduardo Abaja, Nelson Alvañez, Jesus Clavecilla, Manuel Nalapitan Sr., Rodolfo Talabon and Reming Jovenes.

The Sandiganbayan acquitted the respondents on Jan. 20, 1999 for lack of evidence, prompting Magdaleno to elevate his case to the Supreme Court.

The high tribunal, in a decision dated Dec. 17, 2004, upheld the Sandiganbayan's ruling.

Calapan mayor suspended

CITY OF CALAPAN—The Office of the Ombudsman has suspended Calapan Mayor Carlos Brucal for two months as it acted on a complaint of grave misconduct and conduct unbecoming of a public official filed by a minor.

The order was served by the Department of the Interior and Local Government on Tuesday.

Rufino Orcino, DILG provincial director, was assisted by provincial legal officer Lorybelle Tanyag in serving the order, on instruction of Gov. Arnan Panaligan.

City counsel Dante Manzo, however, showed the servers a letter from the mayor stating that he would recognize the suspension only after his motion for reconsideration was acted on.

"Is there a double standard here?" Manzo asked, citing earlier cases of other officials in the province whose motions for reconsideration were first observed before serving the Ombudsman's order.

The servers said they were just following orders.

"It [Ombudsman's order] says, 'Notwithstanding any motion or petition' and thus, immediately executory," Tanyag said. "We will restore him if ordered or if there's a TRO (temporary restraining order) from the Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court," the provincial lawyer said.

Since the mayor was absent, the servers decided to post the order on his door and on the bulletin board.

A criminal case of child abuse was also filed by a student leader of the Jose J. Leido Jr. Memorial National High School against Brucal, according to documents obtained by the INQUIRER.

Vice Mayor Robert Paras is now the acting mayor. *Madonna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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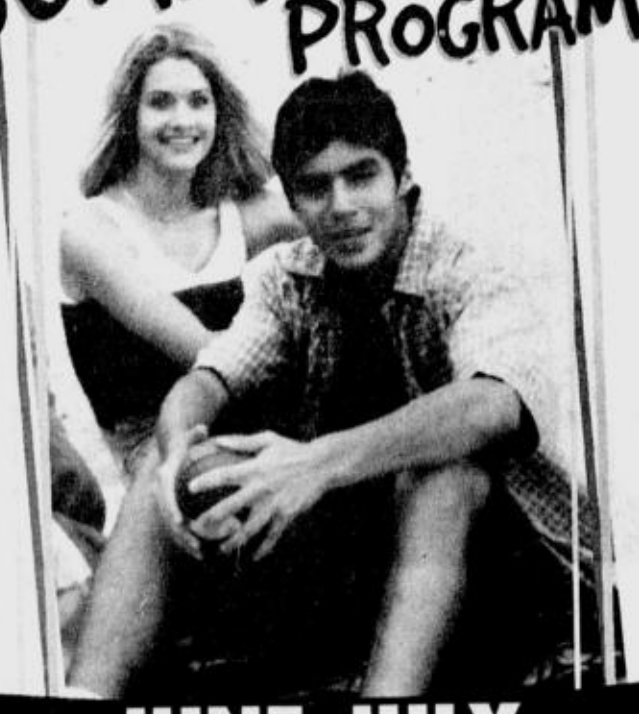

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Rosales to become RP's new prince of Church, says Cruz

From page A1

If made a cardinal, Rosales would be part of the elite College of Cardinals which chooses the Pope.

Tens of thousands of mourners are expected to attend the funeral of Sin at the Manila Cathedral before noon tomorrow.

The burial of Sin, arguably the most prominent and important Filipino clergyman since the Spanish period, will gather top government officials headed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom he helped assume office in 2001.

Former Presidents Corazon Aquino and Fidel Ramos, key players in the first Edsa Revolution spearheaded by the late prelate, are also expected to attend, together with Vice President Noli de Castro, Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and Senate President Franklin Drilon.

At least five foreign cardinals close to Sin—those of Los Angeles, Indonesia, Taiwan, South Korea and Tokyo—would attend the funeral, said Sescon.

According to Sescon, "governors down to the last mayor" in the provinces of Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo will join the final sendoff for their beloved prelate. Sin was a son of New Washington, Aklan, and former bishop of Jaro, Iloilo.

Catholic schools in and around Metro Manila will also send delegations. They will first gather at Rizal Park before marching to the cathedral before the 9 a.m. funeral march, Sescon said.

The Manila Archdiocesan Parochial Schools Association alone has at least 35 schools under its wing. Schools like the University of Santo Tomas and Ateneo de Manila University belonging to the Catholic Educators Association of the Philippines will also send massive contingents.

"Definitely, there'll be a huge turnout [of mourners]," Sescon told reporters yesterday.

The Department of Public Works and Highways, Philippine National Police, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, Intramuros Administration and the Manila city government had all been tapped to manage the crowd, the priest said.

Police authorities created a task force to secure foreign dignitaries, politicians and the ordinary folk expected to pay their last respects to the well-loved cardinal.

"We're ready for the burial," said Director Vidal Querol, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office. He had assigned some 200 policemen to the task force, which he named "Task Force Ascension."

Querol is set to meet with Church officials today to discuss final details of the burial.

Besides securing visitors, policemen will see to the flow of traffic around the cathedral. No demonstration will be allowed near the cathedral.

Yesterday, mourners waited an average of 15 minutes for their turn to stand in front of Sin's mahogany casket, owing to the long queue that extended all the way to Plaza Roma outside the cathedral.

Though the number of people could hardly rival that which queued for opposition leader Fernando Poe Jr. or former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., more mourners were expected to come during the penultimate Mass at 7 tonight.

However, the Mass will be strictly for an intimate few, namely, Sin's relatives and former staff members at the Archdiocese of Manila and his Villa San Miguel residence in Mandaluyong, said Peachy Yamsuan, the See's communications director.

After the 7 p.m. Mass, Yamsuan said the cathedral would again be open to the public but only until 2 a.m. tomorrow so organizers could finish the funeral preparations.

The church will reopen at 6 a.m. in time for the funeral march three hours later.

A horse-drawn carriage will carry Sin's coffin around Plaza Roma to allow mourners outside the cathedral a final glimpse of his remains.

Back at the steps of the cathedral, the President will preside over state honors for Sin. It will be highlighted by "three volleys of fire" or a full 21-gun salute—the first time in Philippine history that such an honor will be accorded a clergyman, Sescon said.

The President will then hand over the Philippine flag that had draped Sin's casket to his younger brother, Dr. Ramon Sin, Sescon said.

Video walls

From the cathedral entrance, the coffin will be brought back to the front of the altar for the requiem Mass which will be concelebrated by Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales with around 500 bishops and priests.

Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas, Sin's long-time protégé, will deliver the homily.

At least two huge video walls will be erected outside the cathedral to allow people to view the rites inside, Sescon said. He asked those who would not be able to attend the funeral to offer prayers.

"Let us pray for the eternal repose of the cardinal," he said.

"But more than praises and honors, I think the best way we can pay tribute to the cardinal is to continue his mission of promoting and defending the truth and really cultivating that deep faith in God in the hearts of every Filipino," Sescon added.

After the final Mass, Sin's former staff at Villa San Miguel will carry and lower his casket into its spot in the crypt beneath the cathedral.

Sescon said only 50 people, including the Apostolic Nuncio Antonio Franco and other top Catholic leaders, would be allowed in the crypt.

In his final resting place, Sin will take with him the symbols of his bishopric and cardinalate, including a time capsule summarizing his illustrious religious life.

Int'l groups . . .

From page A1

Asia Program Coordinator of the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), said in a news conference.

Wright, along with Roby Alampay, executive director of the Southeast Asian Press Alliance (Seapa), and Lin Neumann, executive editor of The Standard of Hong Kong, recently concluded a week-long research tour around the country. The delegation met with the families of the victims, journalists, media executives, police and justice officials, and local government representatives.

Wright said the government's definition of "solved cases was misleading, that justice had not been served in the vast majority of cases and that journalists in remote provinces remained vulnerable to fatal attacks."

Alampay said: "The police definition of 'solved' is the identification of the suspects and they are ready to file cases. There are no actual arrests and identification of the masterminds. It's still a long way off from bringing people to justice and actually putting them behind bars. Of all the cases the government has investigated so far, only a handful has come close to true resolution."

According to the mission, nothing less than the conviction of killers and the actual masterminds behind the murders should indicate the government's success in the campaign against violence against journalists.

Wright also said another problem was "systemic," pointing to the huge backlog of cases before trial courts.

Culture of warlordism

She said the government should have the political will to address the "culture of warlordism" and the "culture of impunity," especially in the rural areas where journalists are most vulnerable.

"In half of the cases, mayors and local government officials were mentioned as masterminds, and police officers were actually hired to commit the crimes," Wright said.

The mission also urged the media to continue focusing on the issue, following up investigations into the murders in order to compel the police and courts to expedite the prosecution of cases.

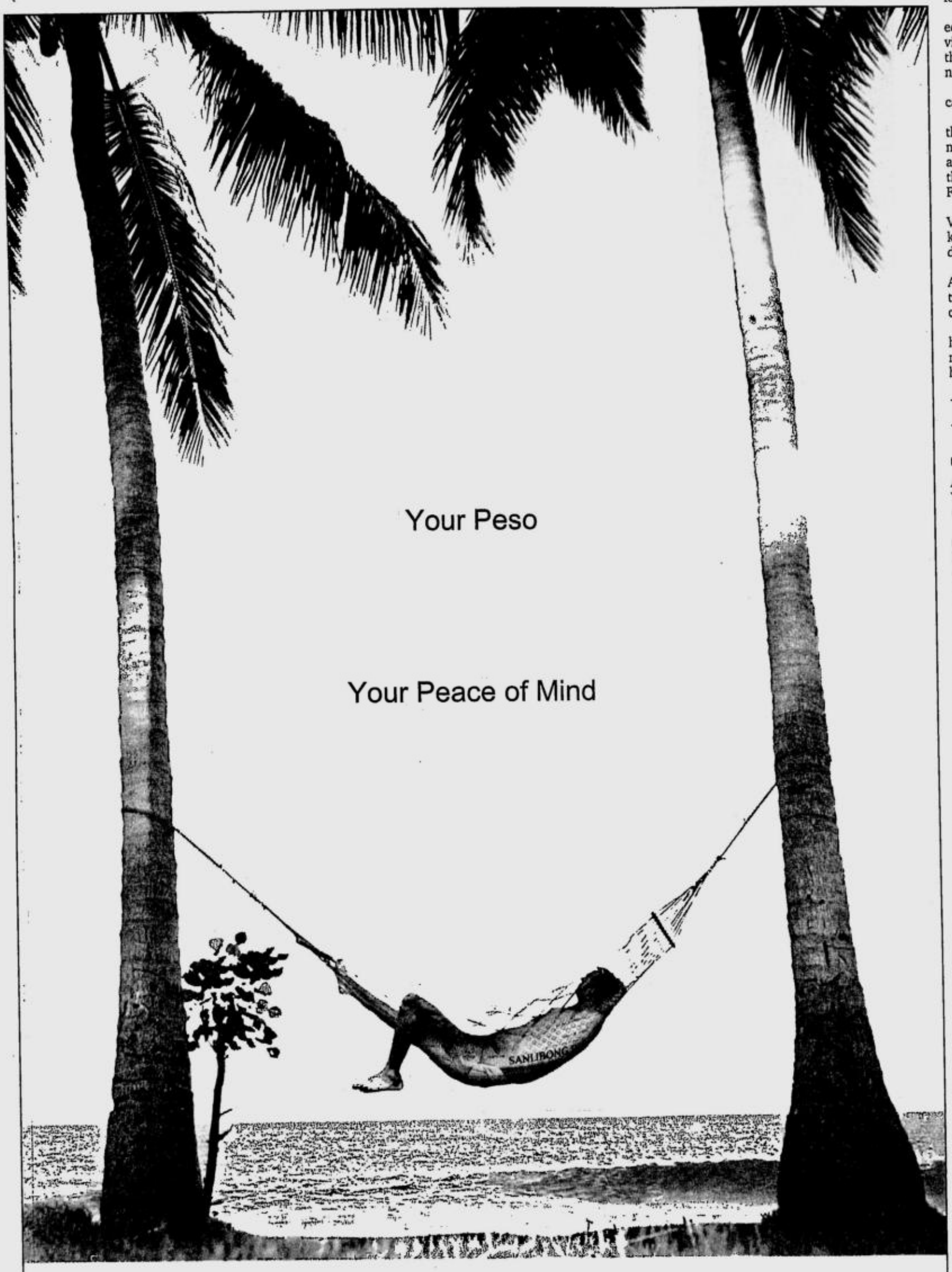
Alampay also stressed that the joint mission went to the Philippines to focus international attention on the perils journalists faced in the country—described as the "most murderous" for journalist. Since the ouster of the dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, the INQUIRER tally of murdered journalists stood at 93.

Alampay also said it was "refreshing and inspiring" that journalists and media executives the mission spoke to had acknowledged that addressing ethical issues, the need for reforms, and elevating industry standards were also solutions to the problem.

"Journalists are taking a hard look at themselves now. The question to the government is what about you?" Alampay said, adding that the bottom line was no one had the right to take someone else's life.

He thumbed down the gun training seminars for journalists sponsored by government officials and the police.

"It's basically a cop-out. They give you the gun and wish you good luck when it is their job to protect you," Alampay said.



Mr. Sison's little business is not so little anymore. When he started out 30 years ago as an independent building contractor, Mr. Sison could only dream that he would be running a full-blown property development company some day. Through the years, he has had to expand his knowledge and expertise. He may have started out as an engineer -- but he has become CEO, COO and financial manager rolled into one.

Phinma's expertise in financial services helps Mr. Sison enjoy a better life for himself and everyone in his company. Through Phinma's AB Capital Group, Mr. Sison gets valuable advice and service for his corporate financial requirements and his personal investments.

During the years he was building his company, Mr. Sison made sure that every peso he earned and invested was well taken cared of by Phinma.

Today, Mr. Sison finally retires. As he takes that well-deserved rest, he knows that he's leaving his company in good hands. Surely, his son and Phinma will work very well together.

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METRO

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

SUPERLOTTO 6/49
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Only 20 percent of PUVs can raise fares

By Clarissa S. Batino

MORE than 80 percent of the 60,000 jeepneys and non-airconditioned buses in Metro Manila have not acquired fare matrices from the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) and should not yet be collecting the P2 fare hike, the agency's top official said.

LTFRB Chair Maria Elena Bautista again stressed that without a fare matrix or "taripa," jeeps and buses could not increase their fares.

Bautista said that as of last Saturday, only 25.8 percent, or 15,500, of jeeps and buses had paid their dues with the LTFRB. Of that number, only 12.5 percent, or 7,500, had received their fare matrices.

An operator has to pay P510 as filing fee, P10 as legal research fee, and P40 as franchise verification fee, after which they are entitled to one free fare matrix.

An extra fare matrix costs P50.

Operators who have paid their dues but have not gotten their fare matrix would start getting their copies today, said the LTFRB.

The matrices will be delivered for free by the LTFRB.

Bautista said the LTFRB would no longer release paid fare matrices at their office to prevent long queues and to keep fixers away.

Every time fares rise, fixers make a killing by charging as much as P3,000, she explained.

Operators who changed their addresses without informing the LTFRB would be fined P500 and are directed to file the changes in detail with the board on or before Aug. 27, said Bautista.

"Only those who would not receive the matrix on the date specified would be entertained by the LTFRB. They must bring a copy of the original decision and the original official receipt," she noted.

If the franchise was bought from another operator, one must also bring the deed of sale, petition for sale and transfer, and the notice of hearing.

Meanwhile, Bautista said her agency received around 100 complaints against jeepney drivers charging higher fares even without a fare matrix.

However, she said the complaints had dwindled and an operation conducted over the weekend resulted in the apprehension of only two fare matrix violators.

But reports gathered by the INQUIRER showed fare matrix violations taking place along the PRC-Mantrade route and the Bayanbayanan-Highway route in San Pedro, Laguna.

In some instances, the jeeps displayed photocopies of the fare matrix, which according to LTFRB rules is a violation.

An original fare matrix is printed on yellow paper and has a holographic sticker under the signature of the issuing officer.

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Business losses lead to alleged suicide pact

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

BAD BUSINESS reportedly led a trader and his lover to a suicide pact inside a motel in Mandaluyong City yesterday.

But while the woman, Milagros Guerrero, died, businessman Danilo Tolentino survived.

According to police, Tolentino and Guerrero, who were both in their early 50s, rented a room at the Bermuda Hotel and Restaurant in Mandaluyong City the other afternoon.

Yesterday morning, hotel employees phoned the room for the 8 a.m. wake-up call but nobody responded.

When hotel employees forced open the door, they found Guerrero lying on the floor while Tolentino was on the bed. Both were naked and bloodied.

PO3 Robert Eugenio told the INQUIRER that Guerrero was already lifeless when responding lawmen arrived. However, they saw that Tolentino was still breathing and rushed him to the hospital.

Police recovered two kitchen knives, with blood still dripping from their blades, inside the room.

Guerrero had stab wounds in her neck and belly, while Tolentino had stab wounds in his neck and chest.

At the Mandaluyong City Medical Center, Tolentino told police that he and Guerrero had decided to end their lives.

Tolentino, who has been separated from his wife for more than a decade, had been depressed, according to relative Jesse Sinon.

"His businesses are going bankrupt," Sinon said.

After working as a manager for a soft drink company, Tolentino put up his own grocery store and night club, Sinon added.

The other afternoon, Tolentino sent text messages to his children "asking for forgiveness."

His children got worried, but Tolentino did not respond to their text messages.

Eugenio said Tolentino's phone had about 50 unread messages when police recovered it.

Majority fail police exams

By Tarra V. Quismundo

TOUGHER exams or more unfit applicants?

The National Police Commission (Napolcom) has announced that 15,416, or 85.44 percent, of the 18,044 applicants for the police force this year have failed the test.

Similarly, 11,332, or 60.67 percent, of 18,678 policemen who took qualification exams this year for their promotion were also unsuccessful.

In all, out of the 36,722 who took Napolcom exams in the first half of 2005, only 9,974, or 27 percent, passed. The majority of 26,748, or 73 percent, failed.

Harder

Napolcom said the high failing rate was a result of the harder exams they were giving.

"The exams aim to accomplish two things: to determine if a civilian is eligible to enter the police service, and to see if those already in the service deserve to be promoted," said Napolcom Information Office chief Josephmar Gil.

This year's passing rate is the lowest since 1999, when only 10.7 percent of examinees passed the eligibility and promotion exams given that year.

But instead of lamenting the poor results, Napolcom saw the low passing rate as an improvement of PNP standards, as the commission and the PNP work toward implementing the PNP Reform and Reorganization Act.

Cleansing

This law, ratified in 1998, is aimed at cleansing the PNP of unworthy members to improve police service.

"The relatively low passing rate in both exams may be attributed to the Commission's continuous upgrading of standards on its police examinations, in line with its sustained effort to professionalize the PNP," Napolcom Chair Angelo Reyes said in a statement.

Out of 18,044 test takers for the Police Officer 1 rank, 2,628 or 14.56 percent made the cut. A total of 7,346 officers, or 39.33 percent, passed the promotional tests out of the 18,678 examinees.

Of those qualified for promotion, 31 passed the test to move up to the rank of Superintendent, 134 for inspectors, 2,964 for Senior Police Officer, and 4,217 for Police Officers.

The tests were administered on April 24 in Metro Manila and some provinces.

The Napolcom entrance examination qualifies a civilian for application to the PNP.

Passers would next pursue their application before regional or district police offices, where they would be subjected to another round of testing, including a physical agility test, neuropsychiatric and medical examinations, and another written examination, said Gil.

Each examinee would get their individual rating report through mail. Napolcom's Makati headquarters and regional offices would be answering exam result queries starting July 1.

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THE NEW DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT TODAY PUSHED FOR A REFERENDUM ON THE GMA GOVERNMENT AS THE SOLUTION TO THE WORSENING POLITICAL CRISIS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE SO-CALLED GLORIAGATE TAPES WHICH PROVIDED "EVIDENCE" OF DIRECT INVOLVEMENT OF THE PRESIDENT IN CHEATING DURING THE 2004 ELECTIONS. THE NEW DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT THRU ITS PRESIDENT, ATTY. EDNO JOSON, STATED THAT "A SPECIAL LAW OR A JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE REFERENDUM SHOULD BE PASSED BY CONGRESS AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE TIME TO PREEMPT A POSSIBLE BLOODY PEOPLE POWER UPRISING, COUP D ETAT, REFUSAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND HER VICE PRESIDENT TO RESIGN TO PAVE THE WAY FOR SPECIAL ELECTION UNDER ART.7 SEC 8 AND 10 OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION OR SOME OTHER RELATED EVENTS WHICH COULD SPELL THE END FOR OUR DEMOCRATIC WAY OF LIFE, FAITH IN DEMOCRACY AND THE RULE OF THE SOVEREIGN MUST BE RESTORED IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE AS A NATION WORTHY OF AN HONORABLE PLACE IN THE COMMUNITY OF NATIONS." AS AN INITIAL STEP, JOSON URGES THE IMMEDIATE CONVENING OF THE HEADS OF ALL INTERESTED PARTIES AND ORGANIZATIONS TO MEET AND DISCUSS THE REFERENDUM BILL TO BE SUBMITTED TO THE CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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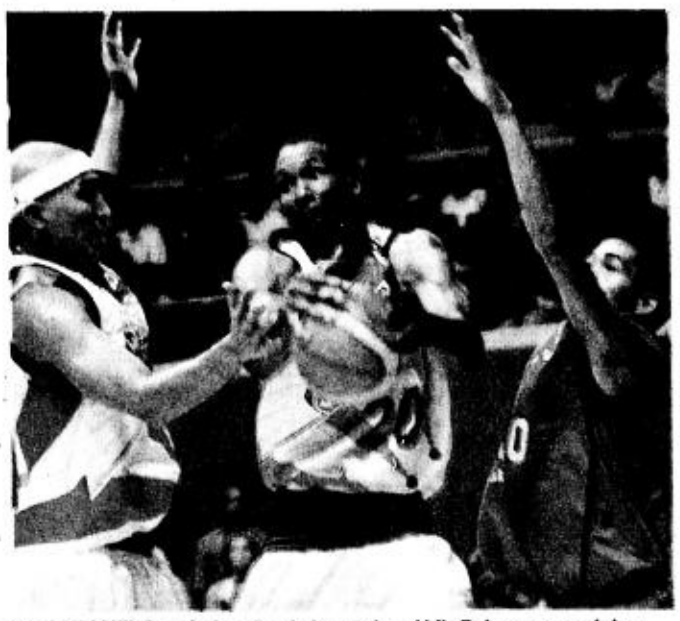
Beermen back in Finals



SAN MIGUEL Beer's Ace Custis (center) and Nic Belasco control the rebound off Red Bull's Cyrus Baguio in last night's game. AUGUST DELA CRUZ

By June Navarro

ENRICO Villanueva left the court with a broken nose and Red Bull Barako followed him two hours later with a broken heart.

Danny Ildefonso's looper with eight-tenths of a second left carried San Miguel Beer to a thrilling 88-86 win over the Barako that lifted the Beermen to the Gran Matador PBA Fiesta Conference Finals last night at the Araneta Coliseum.

Ildefonso received the bounce pass from a trapped Dondon Hontiveros at the baseline and lofted a short, high-arching jumper over Earl Barron that ended the Barako's string of "great escapes" and shoved the Beermen back into the Finals after two seasons.

"It wasn't part of the play," said San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico, referring to the rebound by Hontiveros following a miss by Ace Custis that led to Ildefonso's game-winner.

"I guess lucky is the right word to describe what happened out there."

The Barako battled back from 14 points down and still had a shot at sending the game into overtime until Custis deflected a lob pass intended for Barron as time expired.

Villanueva left the game with eight minutes and 51 seconds left in the first period after Custis accidentally threw an elbow that fractured Villanueva's nose bridge. He was whisked off to the locker room and was later brought to the Chinese General Hospital.

Villanueva left after scoring Red Bull's first basket following a 5-0 run by the Beermen that opened Game 4 of the best-of-five series.

Coach Yeng Guiao was forced to shuffle Nelson Asaytono and Bryan Gahol to work alongside the seven-foot Barron in the paint.

The Beermen wrapped up the series at 3-1 to secure their ninth title appearance in 15 conferences under Uichico and 27th overall since 1975. The last time the Beermen made it to the Finals was in the 2003 Reinforced Conference.

The scores:

First Game

SAN MIGUEL 88—Custis 20, Racela 17, Ildefonso 11, Belasco 11, Peña 10, Hontiveros 9, Seigle 5, Lopez 3, Adriano 2.

RED BULL 86—Barron 27, Tugade 15, Asaytono 11, Valenzuela 10, Gahol 8, Bagulo 7, Ybañez 6, Villanueva 2, Robinson 0, Feihl 0.

Quarters: 19-13, 37-42, 66-60, 88-86.

Torres Asian GP long jump queen

MARESTELLA Torres captured her second gold medal to emerge as the long jump queen of the Asian Grand Prix and underscore a successful campaign by Filipino track and field bets in the three-leg series which wound up Saturday in Bangkok, Thailand.

Torres leapt 6.55 m, just a centimeter short of the national mark, in bagging her second gold for the RP campaign bankrolled by Pagcor, San Miguel Corp. and the First Gentleman Foundation.

She dominated the first leg in Indonesia before settling for the bronze at the next stop in Singapore where SEA Games champion Lerma Bulauitan-Gabito snatched the gold.

NCAA junior cage wars get under way today

GAMES TODAY
(*Cuneta Astrodome*)
1 p.m.—San Beda vs PCU (Jrs)
2:30 p.m.—Perpetual vs Letran (Jrs)
4 p.m.—JRU vs St. Benilde (Jrs)

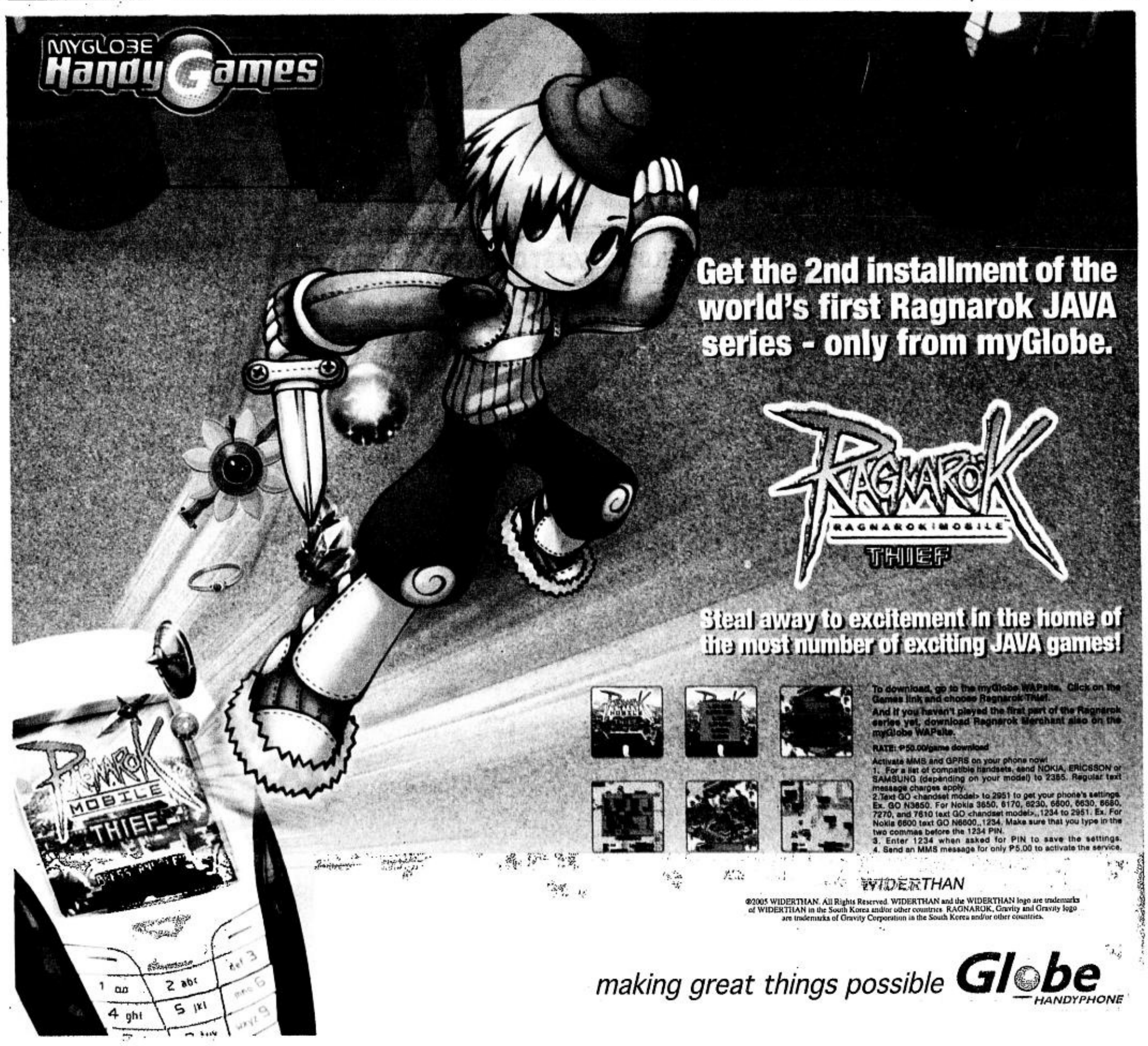
THERE will be a lot of new faces when the junior division of the 81st NCAA basketball season unfolds today at the Cuneta Astrodome.

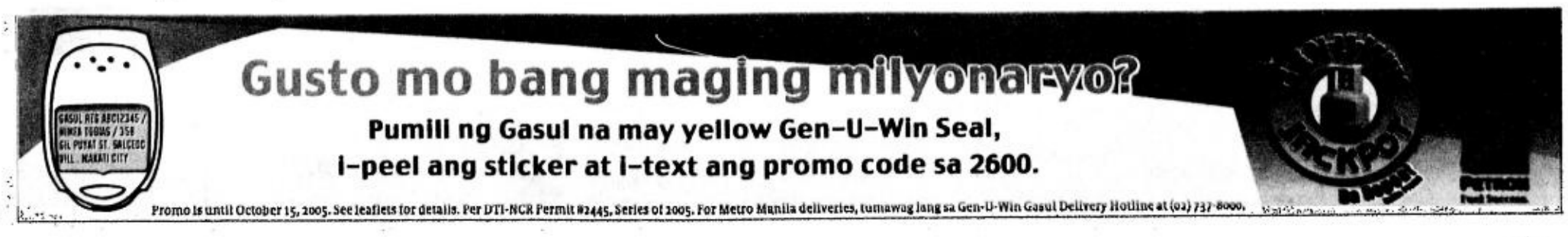
With nine rookies on their roster, the San Beda Cubs kick off their title defense against the Philippine Christian U Baby Dolphins at 1 p.m.

The Cubs, who are gunning for a fourth straight crown, lost the core players of their champion squad, including ex-MVPs Rogemar Menor and Jay-R Taganas.

The Letran Squires will also parade an almost entirely new team with Christopher Alas, son of Knights coach Louie Alas, leading the 11 rookies in their lineup.

The Squires, who lost to the Cubs in last year's finals, will battle the Perpetual Help Altalettes at 2:30 p.m. *Jasmine W. Payo*





Thywillbedone does it right

By Edwin Villanueva, *Contributor*

THYWILLBEDONE responded to Elpidio Aguila's vigorous prodding down the stretch to outduel Speed Advantage and capture the J.V. Ongpin Cup, second leg of the 2005 Triple Crown series, yesterday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park.

It was vintage Aguila at his best as he applied the whip in rapid-fire style on the far third choice who went on to a one-and-a-half length win over the Cojuangco Cup victor amid the thunderous roar of the huge crowd.

"*Ang hinete ko ang nagpanalo* (My jockey spelled the win)," said jubilant trainer Celing Vergara, lauding the veteran Aguila's handling of the 3-year-old dark bay colt owned by the Jarcom Enterprises. "*Napakagaling ang pagkakadala niya* (His ride was magnificent)."

The victory, worth P1 million, recalled Aguila's brilliant rides in 1983 when he engineered Skywalker's Triple Crown conquest.

"*Parang naka-*sweep *na rin ang* feeling (It feels like scoring a sweep)," he said.

Speed Advantage, ridden by Fernando Raquel Jr., settled for P376,750, while the Pat Dilema-steered top choice, Real Spicy, came in only third, four lengths off the winner, for P209,250. In Command was fourth, followed by Tiger Song and Speed Majesty.

The Tito de Jesus-bred Thywillbedone, a progeny of US stallion Yonder out of Straight Effort, covered the 1,750-meter race in 1:51 flat (10-22.5-24.5-25-25).

In the day's other major events, Hermie Esguerra's Ocean Deep leaned on the patient riding of Jesse Guce to nip Vivere in the Hopeful Stakes, while Dixie the Younger also got a brilliant ride from Val Dilema to give father-and-son Francis and Michael Trillana the win in the Sweepstakes.

Ocean Deep, a 3-year-old chestnut filly by Tomorrow's Cat out of Hey Hi, and Dixie the Younger got P300,000 each.

MANALO: 16 straight wins

Manalo joins main draw for RP Int'l Open 9-Ball

MARLON Manalo extended his marvelous winning run by crushing upset-conscious Jundel Mazon, 7-3, to reach the main draw of the 5th Motolite Battle of Champions Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship at the Robinsons Galleria.

"I rode the momentum of a great win last night," said Manalo in Filipino after stretching his undefeated streak to 16 matches.

Manalo ruled successive major tournaments in the United States recently.

Also gaining a spot in the main draw of the event co-organized by Puyat Sports and Solar Sports and sponsored by Motolite, Cafe Puro and Emperador Brandy were Patrick Ooi, Ibrahim Bin Amir, Imran Majid, Venancio Tanio, Gandy Valle and Roberto Gomez.

Ooi downed Sheng Ping-pang, 7-3; Amir beat Konstantin Stepanov, 7-6; Majid nipped Tatsuhiro Ohmoto, 7-2; Gomez crushed Che Wei Fu, 7-3; Valle toppled Carlo Biado, 7-3; and Tanio trounced J. Pelayo, 7-4.

Action in the five-day event will be shown live on Solar Sports from 2 p.m.

Seeded in the main draw are "Bata" Reyes, "Django" Bustamante and Alex Pagulayan, Americans Johnny Archer, Gabe Owen, Corey Deuel, Rodney Morris and Charlie Williams, Europeans Mika Immonen, Thorsten Hohmann, Neils Feijen, Tony Drago, Marcus Chamat and Thomas Engert, Taiwane's Yang Ching-shun and Wu Chia-ching, Japan's Satoshi Kawabata and Kunihiko Takahashi and Korean Jeong Young Hwa.

PBA chair's dribblers put away Japa Cup

CHAIRMAN'S Office held off ABC-5, 74-63, yesterday to emerge champion in the annual Raffy Japa Cup basketball tournament at the Araneta Coliseum.

Eventual Most Valuable Player Suhayli Ali scattered 22 points to lead the balanced attack of PBA chair Buddy Encarnado's squad, which led by as many as 22 points.

Former pro Dominic Uy wound up with 23 points to lead the Astigazoles.

The Charlie Dy-sponsored PBA Press Corps beat Commissioner's Office, 67-58, and copped third place in the tournament held in honor of the late founding president of the PBAPC and sponsored this year by ABC-5, San Miguel Corp., Cindy's Tacloban and Nature's Spring.

Is GMA less popular than the PBA?

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

AS part of proud practice, they did not fail to announce a head count of fans in at least the final four games of the 2005 NBA Finals.

The announcement, in case you missed it, was shouted out loud for everybody to hear and see the enormous popularity of what Americans continue to allege is the true world basketball championship.

Tim Duncan edged out Argentine Manu Ginobili, the people's choice, as title series MVP. Nobody was hoisted on the victorious shoulders of the NBA champs and Robert Horry, who delivered the biggest stab at the Detroit Pistons to save the San Antonio Spurs with Hall-of-Fame heroics in crucial Game 5, celebrated quietly.

Majority in the overflow stadium in Auburn Hills felt Ginobili had performed magnificently in the entire title series to merit the MVP plum.

The phenomenal Argentine, also the spark plug of his national squad that won the basketball gold in the Athens Olympics, however meekly conceded the honor to Duncan, whom he said played stupendously when it counted most.

* * *

The hysteria out there at San Antonio way past midnight of Game 7 aptly fitted what Edgar Allan Poe had described as "the supreme madness of the carnival season."

There was no measuring the hours, no counting the drinks and the crowd as victory celebrations lasted way into daytime all over the triumphant town.

Anyway, here at home, the proud practice of making a head count inside the game venue has suddenly gone passé.

Do remember that, in not the too distant past, the PBA, still well populated, used to brag about great attendance.

The PBA, in the first place, is a self-avowed copycat of the NBA.

How come they no longer bother to make public the size of attendance in the PBA?

To this, we got unanimous replies from sports-loving friends.

* * *

They no longer bother to count game attendance in the PBA, fans say, because the crowds have stayed away.

In short, there are no heads to count.

In hair clinic lingo, they call this affliction as baldness, or the hair going sickeningly sparse.

Seriously, does the PBA still bother to make a head count during games?

Well, maybe yes, maybe no.

What's become clear is that the PBA has not been announcing attendance for obvious reasons.

It does not want to accept the truth about its growing unpopularity.

Who knows, the happy practice of barking out the size of attendance may soon be revived when the PBA enters its own championship phase of the season.

To this, we asked the same set of friends which team they would favor to clash in the forthcoming PBA Finals.

The unanimous reply: Search me.

Again, we could only look back to the happy, overflowing seasons when practically every Pinoy cage fan had his favorite team.

* * *

Yesterday, your reporter here again walked to the nearby fish market to feel the public pulse.

Which PBA team will fight it out in the finals, we asked a vendor who prides himself in being an avid sports fan.

Sorry, he said, you've got to tell me which team. *Dili ko na alam.*

This dusky guy with a sharp face, who used to be crazy about the ending numbers game that relied on PBA game results, has himself lost interest in what's going on in the PBA.

That's rather bothersome, the PBA is the only league of its kind that we've got.

But you know what? Further questioning during that walk through the line of poor-man's stalls has led to a startling discovery. People in the streets are now more interested in the Tale of the Tape, or the Gloriagate affair.

Former fans of the President have been wondering, rather passionately, if Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo could face up to the truth and survive in office at the same time.

No, they are not putting a bet on the issue.

But there's the growing perception that, whether the debonair Secretary Bunye admits it or not, the President has become as unpopular, or even less admired, than poor, dilapidated PBA.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Monday, June 27, 2005

LIVE 8 ABC

WORLD'S BIGGEST CONCERT, SATURDAY 10 PM

20 years after the biggest performers in the world gathered to "feed the world" on Live Aid, a monumental concert is set to happen in London, Rome, Paris, Berlin and Philadelphia to call on world leaders at the coming G8 Summit to end poverty globally!

"LIVE 8" features stars like Bob Geldof, U2, Madonna, Mariah Carey, Coldplay, Dido, Keane, Elton John, Annie Lennox, Paul McCartney, Sting, REM, Joss Stone, The Cure, A-Ha, Will Smith, Maroon 5, Jon Bon Jovi, P. Diddy, 50 Cent, Jay-Z, Andrea Bocelli and more!

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Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Showbiz No. 1	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Cpids
ABC 5					Batas Barangay		TNA Impact	
GMA 7	Saang Sulok Ng Langit	Now and Forever	Glass Shoes	Tenjho Tenge	Shaman King	Flame Of Recca	Full House	24 Oras
RPN 9		Metro TV Shopping	Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	The Insider
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Krusada Kontra Kamen
JackTV	Street Smarts	Worst Case Scenario		Wwe Heat		WWE Velocity		Cheat
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues	Rugrats	The Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	All That	Are You Afraid of the Dark?	100 Deeds of Eddie McDowd	The Amanda Show
MYX	MYX Finds	Urban MYX	MYX Backtrax	Pop MYX	My MYX	Take 5	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC		Complete Savages	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld
Cinema One		Pilong Puso				Ipagpatawad Mo		
Studio 23						Super Gals		Get Backers
AXN		Lost		Worst Case Scenario		Hollywood's Greatest Stunts	E Buzz	The Associates
Star World	Weird TV	The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Home Improvement	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International
National Geographic		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us		Be The Creature		Wildlife Detectives
Solar Sports								
Lifestyle Network	Country Style	Interiors By Design	Decorating With Style	Decorating Cents	Molto Mario	Sweet Dreams	30 Minute Meals	Bill Boggs Corner
HBO	Mortal Thoughts (2:35PM)			The Breakfast Club (4:15PM)			Touching Wild Horses	
Star Movies			The Metro Chase (3:40PM)			The Joy Luck Club (5:10PM)		
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	What's New Scooby Doo?
ESPN						World Snooker Tour China Open		
Disney Channel	Mr Bean: The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unlakative Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible
Cinemax			Don King Only In America				Coyote Waits	
Hallmark Channel	Who's The Boss	Wife Swap		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Who's The Boss
Discovery Channel		Body Work		Mummy Autopsy		Lion Battlefield		Wild Weather
MTV Philippines			Hangin Out at MTV		MTV Get Spotted		TRL	
Sports Plus					Inside the PGA	Booz Allen Classic Highlights		Basworld

Channel	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABS-CBN 2	TV Patrol World		Meteor Garden Full Edition	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Kampanerang Kuba	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Oh! Feel Young	OK Fine! Whatever			Insider
ABC 5	Sentro	Friends	The Apprentice		Fear Factor		Big News	Look Who's Talking		ESPN Golf	
GMA 7		Dama		Encantadia	Extra Challenge		Attic Cat	Lagot Ka, Isusumbong Kita			Saksi
RPN 9	NBA On RPN					Biggest Loser		Newswatch Now	Sex & the City	Cerge For Truth	
IBC 13		Shakey's V-League				Elorde Prod. Sunstar			IBC News Tonite	Unawin Natin	
JackTV	Just For Laughs	Mad TV		Kid Notorious	Comedy Central Presents	Insomniac W/ Dave Attell	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Blue Collar TV	Banzai	Joe Schmo Show	
Nickelodeon	The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron	Fairly Odd Parents	SpongeBob SquarePants	As Told By Ginger	Yakkity Yak	Chalkzone	Rocket Power	Hey Arnold!	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Rugrats
MYX	Rock MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Pop MYX	Urban MYX	OPM MYX Countdown		My MYX	MYX Backtrax	OPM MYX	Mellow MYX
ETC	Ambush Makeover	Friends	Will & Grace	The O.C.		Queer eye For The Straight Guy		Entertainment Tonight Weekend		Who Wants To Marry My Dad 2	
Cinema One		Bikini Watch				Lucia				Ubusan Ko Ang Lahi Mo	
Studio 23	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	America's Next Top Model	Tru Calling		Charmed		News Central	The Next Joe Millionaire		Travel Time
AXN		Alias (Season III)		Totally Outrageous		Fear Factor		CSI: Miami		CSI: Miami	
Star World	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	The King Of Queens	Still Standing	Yes Dear	Frasier	Boston Public		Friends	The King Of Queens
CNN		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Living Golf	World News Asia		Your World Today	
National Geographic	Insects From Hell	Wow		About Asia		Nat'l Geographic Specials		Built For The Kill		Animals Like Us	
Solar Sports						NBA Greatest Game				NBA Jam	NBA Special
Lifestyle Network	Unwrapped	Food 911	E! True Hollywood Story		NY Fashion Week	Life & Style		Brini Maxwell Show	Modern Girl's Guide	Breathing Room	Genuine Article
HBO		Maid In Manhattan				Sgt. Bilko			Taking Lives (10:35PM)		
Star Movies			Air Bud: Spikes Back (A.K.A. Air Bud 5)			Meet Joe Black					
Cartoon Network	Atomic Betty	Zoids Fusors	Medabots	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Girls	Dexter's Laboratory	Time Squad	Thundercats	What's New Scooby Doo?	Atomic Betty
ESPN				Sportscenter Asia	U.S. Women's Open Golf C'ship Final						Sportscenter Asia
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean: The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Pixel Perfect			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Land Before Time IV: Journey Through The Mists	
Cinemax			Out Of Bounds			A Few Good Men					Christine (11:20PM)
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye		Wife Swap		Almost Salinas			Just Cause (10:35PM)		Sue Thomas: F.B.Eye
Discovery Channel		Unsolved History				Wild Discovery		Concorde: Anatomy Of Disaster		Ramases: Wrath Of God Or Man?	
MTV Philippines	Ask Rob Thomas	MTV Divas		D-tour	Taldakan	Punk'D	Rich Girls	On Board at MTV	Brand New	VH1 Video Collection	
Sports Plus		French Open '05 Finals						Barclays Classic Final Round			

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Serena suffers early exit

Craybas buries two-time champ in 'graveyard'

WIMBLEDON, England—Two-time champion Serena Williams lost at Wimbledon one round shy of another showdown with sister Venus.

Still rusty following a layoff and slowed by an ankle injury, Serena was upset Saturday by fellow American Jill Craybas, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Williams departed hours after her older sister advanced to the fourth round by beating Daniela Hantuchova, 7-5, 6-3. Venus will next play Craybas, who arrived at Wimbledon with a career record of 7-23 in Grand Slam tournaments.

It was Williams' earliest elimination at a major event since the 1999 French Open.

"I've never been one to lose well," said Williams, who fought back tears and dabbed at her eyes during a postmatch news conference. "I'm just used to winning these kind of matches. It's hard for me to go out there and you can't make a shot and you've been making them for years."

The match was scheduled as the last of the day on Center Court, but because other matches there ran long, Williams and Craybas were moved to Court 2—the "Graveyard of Champions." Past losers there have included Andre Agassi, Jimmy Connors, John McEnroe and seven-time champion Pete Sampras in his final match at Wimbledon. *AP*

COMPLETE WIMBLEDON SINGLES RESULTS

MEN—Juan Carlos Ferrero def. Florian Mayer, 3-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-1. Mikhail Youzhny, def. Jonas Bjorkman, 7-5, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6. Roger Federer def. Nicolas Kiefer, 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-1, 7-5. Max Mirnyi def. Jiri Novak, 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (2). Dmitry Tursunov def. Alexander Popp, 5-7, 7-6 (5), 6-2, 6-2. Sebastien Grosjean def. Novak Djokovic, 7-5, 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. Thomas Johansson, def. Janko Tipsarevic, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1. Andy Roddick def. Igor Andreev, 6-2, 6-2, 7-6 (4). Richard Gasquet def. Gilles Muller, 7-6 (3), 6-3, 6-3. Guillermo Coria def. Jurgen Melzer, 3-6, 3-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4. David Nalbandian def. Andrew Murray, 6-7 (4), 1-6, 6-0, 6-4, 6-1.

WOMEN—Mary Pierce def. Ana Ivanovic, 6-1, 6-4. Nadia Petrova def. Cara Black, 6-4, 6-3. Kveta Peschke, def. Conchita Martinez, 6-4, 6-1. Maria Sharapova def. Katarina Srebotnik, 6-2, 6-4. Lindsay Davenport def. Dinara Safina, 6-2, 6-1. Venus Williams def. Daniela Hantuchova, 7-5, 6-3. Nathalie Dechy def. Alyona Bondarenko, 6-1, 6-4. Kim Clijsters def. Roberta Vinci, 6-3, 6-4. Flavia Pennetta def. Eleni Daniilidou, 6-4, 6-3. Jill Craybas def. Serena Williams, 6-3, 7-6 (4).

Mayweather triumphs

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—Floyd Mayweather Jr. exposed Arturo Gatti as the club fighter he said he was, giving the brawler a vicious beating Saturday night and taking the 140-pound title when Gatti's corner called it quits after six rounds.

Showing speed and power that Gatti had no answer for, Mayweather pounded him with shots to the body and head for six rounds before a stunned sellout crowd at Boardwalk Hall that had come to cheer on their local hero.

Mayweather, a heavy favorite entering the ring, remained undefeated and won his third title in as many weight classes with the performance of his career. He easily avoided Gatti's punches and landed his own with crisp precision while Gatti's face swelled.

The end came after the sixth round, when Gatti was taking punch after punch to the body and the head while offering little response. When he walked back to his corner, he staggered toward the ropes and barely made it back to his stool.

"I'm stopping it, baby. I'm stopping it," Gatti's trainer, Buddy McGirt, told his fighter, who protested only briefly. "No more. No more. Your eyes are closing." *AP*

Miñoza fires a 65, ties for 16th place

BANDAR Seri Begawan—Frankie Miñoza shot the round of the day with a six-under-par 65 Sunday and finished in a three-way tie for 16th in the inaugural Brunei Open.

The top Filipino shotmaker, who struggled in the second and third rounds at the par-71 Jack Nicklaus-designed Empire Hotel and Country Club course, had seven birdies against one bogey in his nines of 31-34 and expectedly emerged the best RP bet with a 278 total.

With earlier rounds of 67-74-72, Miñosa wound up 13 strokes behind Australian Terry Pilkadiris, who earned more than enough for his long-delayed honeymoon with his wife-caddy Monique by ruling the event at 265 after a final-round 67.

Pilkadiris and Monique got married last September but had to postpone their honeymoon while they campaigned in the Asian Tour.

Jerome Delariarte rallied with a 69 and ended up in a five-way tie for 20th place at 279. Angelo Que also had a 69 for 283.

Cassius Casas (72) and Danny Zarate (73) finished at 284 while Cookie La'O (74) and Gerald Rosales (76) wound up at 288.

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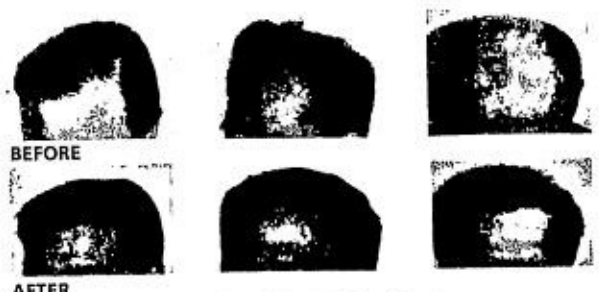

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US OPEN

'Soren-Slam' fades amid teen charge

CHERRY HILLS VILLAGE, Colorado—Two teenagers in pink shirts and ponytails showed Saturday that history at the US Women's Open doesn't have to be all about Annika Sorenstam and the Grand Slam.

Michelle Wie was a 15-year-old model of poise at Cherry Hills, relying on power to get out of some rough spots on her way to a 1-over 72 while playing in the final group. She was tied for the lead with 17-year-old Morgan Pressel, who shot a 70 to get into the final group.

They were joined at 1-over 214 by Karen Stupples. One shot behind was 18-year-old Paula Creamer.

Filipina Jennifer Rosales shot a 73 for a 221 total that left her in a 5-way tie for 30th place, seven shots off the lead. Fil-Am Dorothy Delasin was five strokes back, who shot a 77 (226).

A victory by Wie or Pressel would make them the youngest to ever capture a major championship. Creamer could be the youngest to win a major in America. All of them are playing well enough to do it.

Sorenstam is still more than just a subplot to this dynamic championship, but just barely.

Her dream of sweeping the four majors appeared to crash with a three-putt bogey and a four-putt double bogey in a span of four holes early in the third round. But she salvaged a 2-over 73 to finish at 6-over 219, only five shots out of the lead heading into the final round. *AP*

UST, La Salle spikers seek crown berths

GAMES TODAY (Rizal Coliseum)
3 p.m.—La Salle vs Ateneo
5 p.m.—UST vs San Sebastian

UNIVERSITY of Santo Tomas and La Salle try to arrange a showdown for the 2005 Shakey's V-League first conference crown when they take on separate rivals today in the penultimate semifinal playdate before another expected big crowd at the Rizal Coliseum.

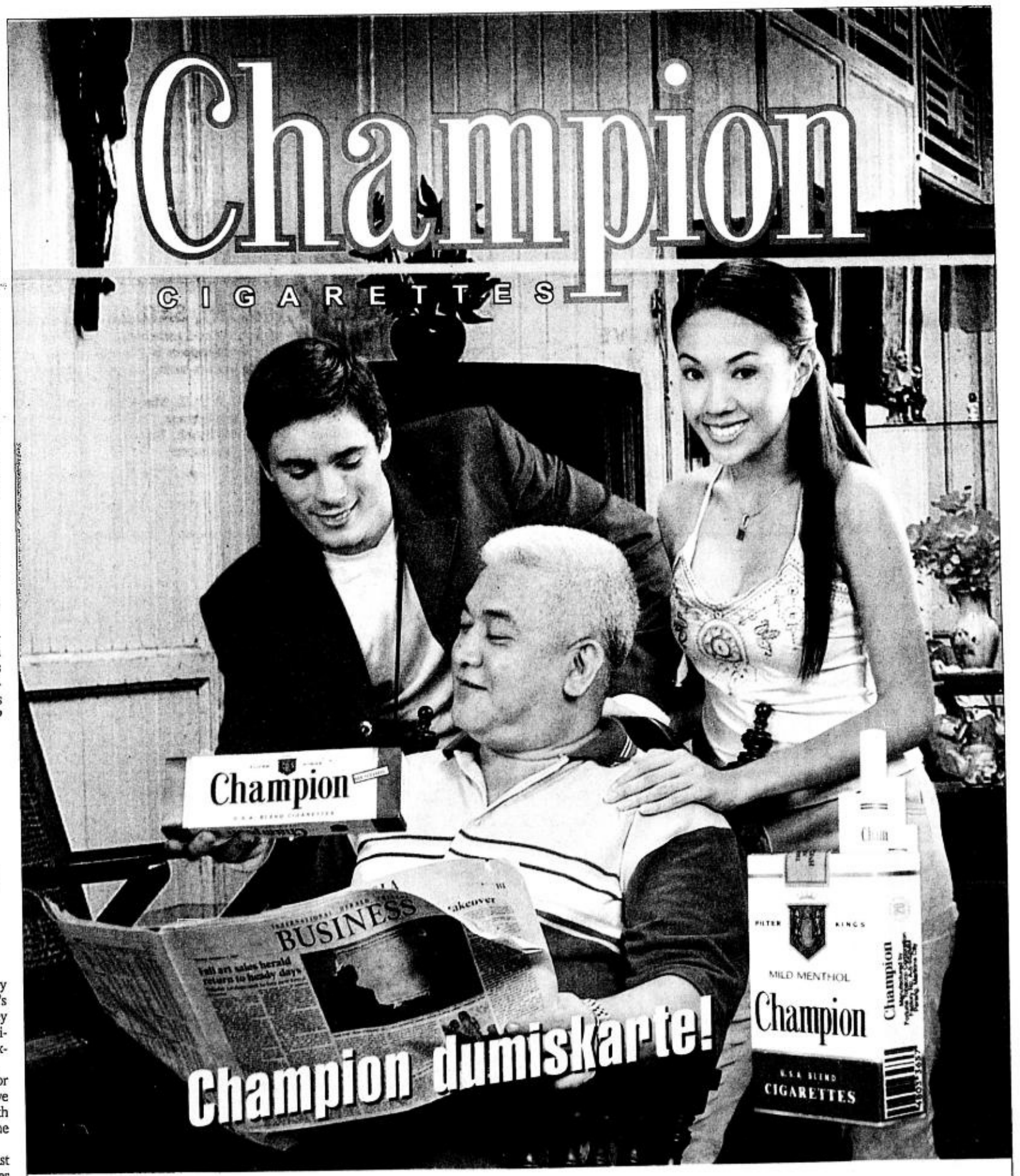
The Tigresses, tied with the Lady Archers for the lead with 3-1 (win-loss) slates, appear to have the inside track for the first championship berth with a "lighter" assignment at 5 p.m. against the 0-4 and out-of-it San Sebastian Lady Stags.

In contrast, La Salle has a tough task against Ateneo in the 3 p.m. opener with the Lady Eagles expected to harness all their strength and power in this all-important match that will be the defining moment of their first-ever campaign here.

With a 2-2 record, Ateneo needs to win over La Salle to stay in the hunt for a finals slot.

A loss will cement a UST-La Salle title duel in the tournament sponsored by Shakey's Pizza.

The La Salle-Ateneo duel will be telecast at 7 tonight on IBC-13 while the UST-SSC tussle will be aired tomorrow, also starting at 7 p.m., according to the organizing Sports Vision Management Group Inc.



Government Warning:
Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to Your Health.

Brave amputee rules GenSan kickoff race

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Isidro Vildosola yesterday proved that disability is no bar to anyone who wants to succeed.

Vildosola, who lost his right arm in a rice mill accident 13 years ago, dominated the men's 21-K race of the kickoff leg of the 29th National Milo Marathon at the Oval Plaza here.

"*Sa wakas nanalo na rin ako* (I won, at last)," said the 28-year-old Vildosola, who clocked one hour, 16 minutes and 15 seconds on his third try at the event after placing third last year and fourth in 2003.

Rey Mondonedo settled for second place in 1:18:57, exactly a minute ahead of Boyet Basi.

Vildosola, who is slated to compete in the 800-m, 400-m and 1,500-m events in the Asean Para Games in Manila in December, won P10,000 plus a new Smart cell phone and clinched a spot in the Milo National Finals on Oct. 9 in Metro Manila along with Mondonedo and Basi.

Mona Lisa Ambasa again ruled the women's 21-K elimination race held in partnership with Bayview Park Hotel Manila, adidas, Cebu Pacific, Smart Kid, Department of Tourism, Addict Mobile Prepaid and Powerbar.

Recently recovered from the flu, Ambasa took her fifth straight regional title and the P10,000 first prize with a time of 1:33:31. Grazel Jane Nulla (1:38:59) and April Rose Diaz (1:42:38) wound up second and third, respectively.

The second and third placers in the men's and women's races won P6,000 and P4,000 each.

The 5K top three were Stephen Brania (15:53), Edmer Jerome Geraldez (15:56) and Marlon Oracion (15:58). Daisy Queen Luna topped the ladies event (22:02), followed by Christy Penuela (22:28) and Nichiren Panerio (22:36).

The Kiddie 3K run was won by Dario Dojo and Ivy Dizon in the 6-9 age group and Rolando Dojo and Christy Joy Capaniari in the 10-12 category.

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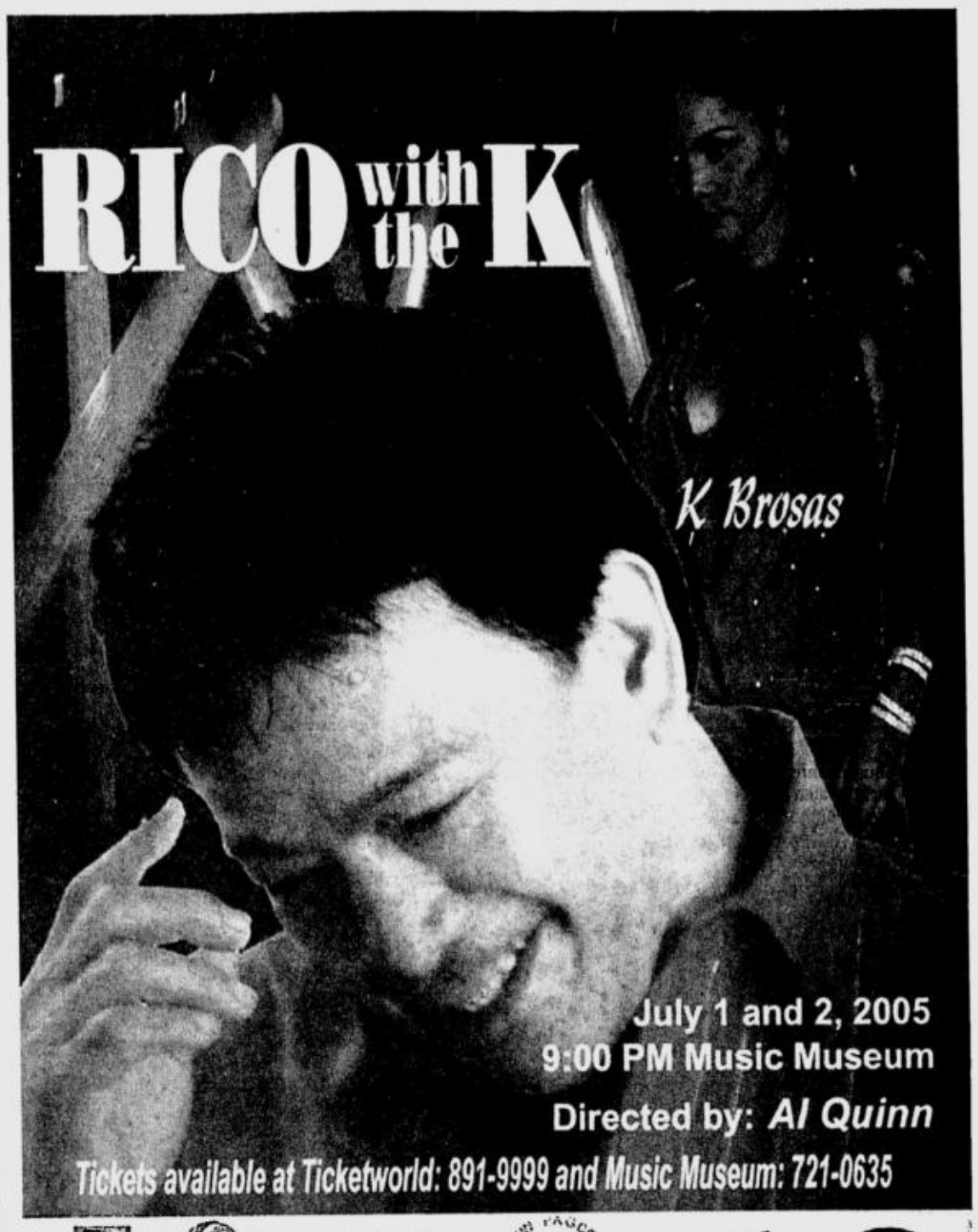

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MR & MRS SMITH 1:30 / 4:10 / 6:50 / 9:30	MADAGASCAR 1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
MONSTER IN LAW 1:25 / 4:05 / 6:45 / 9:25	GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA ADMISSION : P 299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
BATMAN BEGINS 12:20/ 1:00 / 3:10 / 3:50 / 6:00/ 6:40 / 8:50 / 9:30	BATMAN BEGINS 1:40 / 4:30 / 7:20 / 10:10
HOTEL RWANDA 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00	

ALI MALL CINEMAS

1 NASAAN KA MAN 12:20 / 2:50 / 5:20 / 7:50	4 MONSTER IN LAW 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
2 BATMAN BEGINS 11:15 / 2:15 / 5:15 / 8:15	5 HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY 12:40 / 3:20 / 6:00 / 8:40
3 MR & MRS SMITH 12:10 / 2:50 / 5:30 / 8:10	DOLBY DIGITAL DTS SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
June 28, Sun. 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:15pm Red Bull vs San Miguel / 6:35pm Shell vs Talk N Text
June 29, Wed (if necessary) 2005 PBA FIESTA CONF. SEMIS 4:45pm Talk N Text vs Shell / 7:35pm San Miguel vs Red Bull
ULTIMATE SHOWDOWN BASKETBALL CLASSIC ATENEO - LA SALLE July 2, Sat. 1pm & 3pm
UAAP OPENING CEREMONIES - GAMES July 9, Saturday, 1pm

CENTER EVENTS

SALE EVENTS	Celine Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 1 to 31 at Level 2 of Gateway Mall
	Bayo Sale with up to 50% off on selected items from July 8 to 24 at Level 3 of Gateway Mall
EXHIBIT	Herbie: Fully Loaded life-size replica on display from July 7 to 13 at the Gateway Cineplex 10 lobby
SPECIAL APPEARANCE	Neil Gaiman Book Signing on July 11, 4pm at Fully Booked on Level 2 of Gateway Mall

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

The emerging pool talent of 2005

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

THE EMERGENCE of unassuming Ronnie Alcano in the billiards scene is a good sign that the Philippines is not lacking in new talents.

Alcano won the 4th Sun Star Superbalita 9-Ball championship in Cebu City last Thursday by beating battle-scarred Dennis Orcullo, 15-13, in the finals for his second straight victory following his dramatic win in the Manila leg of the San Miguel Beer Asian Tour on June 5.

With his triumph in Cebu City, the 32-year-old Alcano of Calamba, Laguna, won the top prize of P100,000 to boost his total pool earnings to P640,000. Alcano pocketed P540,000 in the Manila leg of the Asian Tour.

Alcano is one of the most underrated players today, but he has made a remarkable turnaround. He finished No. 8 at the end of this year's Asian Tour and qualified for next month's World Pool Championship in Taipei where the champion's purse is a whopping $75,000. Fil-Canadian Alex Pagulayan won last year's world championship.

Standing at 5-foot-11, the soft-spoken Alcano is a worthy successor to the game's biggest names: Efren "Bata" Reyes, Francisco "Django" Bustamante and Pagulayan. He is also pleasant to watch because of his booming breaks and brilliantly executed shots.

Billiards is enjoying unprecedented popularity in the Philippines ever since the immensely talented Reyes won the World Pool Championship in Cardiff, Wales, in 1999. Every billiards event is well-attended even though most of the participants are not Filipinos. Through the years, the Philippines has successfully hosted several international tournaments, thanks largely to brothers Putch and Popit Puyat, the sports' longtime sponsors. The country's leading television stations are now among billiards' new avid supporters.

This year, Puyat Sports and Solar Sports are hosting the Philippine International Open 9-Ball Championship at the Robinsons Galleria where 20 seeded players and 12 qualifiers will see action in the main tournament starting today.

In an interview, billiards "godfather" Aristeo Puyat said they are staging major billiards events, including the ongoing Philippine international tournament, to open new opportunities for everyone and make the virtual unknown rich and famous like Reyes, Bustamante and Pagulayan. He cited as an example Alcano, who became P640,000 richer in a span of two weeks, and Gandy Valle, the Asian Tour first leg winner in Singapore, who is now making waves in the international pool arena despite being "out of sight" from the public eye since he won a gold medal in Asian Games in Bangkok in 1998.

"In this year's Philippine International Open, everybody has a good chance of winning," said Puyat. "There will be no discrimination."

***

FROM THE MAILBOX. It makes me feel good to know that PBA Commissioner Noli Eala has finally secured a license from the Games and Amusements Board. Said GAB chair Eric Buhain:

"Kindly accept our gratitude for, and deep appreciation of, your support concerning the legality of this Board's requirement for the Commissioner and other officials of the Philippine Basketball Association to secure GAB licenses prior to their performance of their respective functions.

"Coming from a sportsman with a vast experience and expertise along the fields involved, your meaningful comments cannot but be deemed as an endorsement and commendation for the stand of this Board regarding such vital issues."

. . . From reader Paul R. Mortel of Marikina City: "I think the decline in the popularity of the PBA could be partly attributed to the "sawa" factor, hard economic situation of our people, absence of big names as in yesteryears, etc."

A concerned sports fan, Mortel also said, "This early, we should already start training the athletes that we will send to the Olympic Games that will be held in China in 2008. Let's hope we'll win our first Olympic gold medals in 2008."

. . . And from Mrs. Ofelia C. Legaspi, of the Letran College institutional communications and relations office: "Thank you so much for your article about Letran's hosting of the 81st season of the NCAA. In particular, we feel very proud of your mention of notable Letran athletes. We appreciate your writing about the league and about our colegio's efforts."

Lina at Forum

JOEY Lina makes his first appearance in the weekly PSA Forum at the Pantalan Restaurant in Manila tomorrow after being elected as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines. The 10:30 a.m. session is sponsored by Red Bull, Circure, Supermax, Pagcor and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza. Lina will be joined by fellow officials Lito Alvarez and Christian Tan.

Big Makati 4-cock derby starts today

SIXTY-FIVE fights are on tap in another big 4-cock derby presented by Winning Time Jobo Sports and Gaming Corp. today at the Makati Coliseum. Action starts at 5 p.m. Promoters Lito Orillaza, lawyer Rudy Salud and William Co expect another well-attended affair owing to the full backing of the National Cockers Association headed by Gov. Ito Yñares. "We are formally welcoming the NCA today at Makati Coliseum," said Salud. Today's participants include Yñares, NCA secretary general Jun Santiago, Patrick Antonio and 2005 World Slasher Cup champion Matt Bitanga, Boy de Roca and Dicky Lim. At stake is a cash pot of P500,000. For inquiries, call 8963545, 8956475 or 8956453. PA and Jun Complexor 3000 of Antonio and Jun Topacio of Cavite topped the NCA Super Special 6-Cock Derby Thursday.

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 BATMAN BEGINS MTRCB: GP 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 10:00
2 MONSTER-IN-LAW MTRCB: PG-13 11:35, 2:00, 4:25, 6:50, 9:15
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE H2G2 MTRCB: GP 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
4 HOTEL RWANDA MTRCB: R-13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE MR.& MRS. SMITH MTRCB: PG-13 11:10, 1:50, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
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MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.
1 BATMAN BEGINS 10:30, 1:35, 4:40 7:45, 10:50 GP
2 MONSTER IN-LAW 12:20, 2:55, 5:30 8:05, 10:40 GP
3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE 12:35, 3:10, 5:40 8:20, 10:50 GP
4 MR. & MRS. SMITH 12:20, 3:00, 5:40 8:20, 10:55 PG-13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City Tel. No: 8981440-41
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
HOTEL RWANDA 12:10,2:40,5:10,7:40,10:10
BATMAN BEGINS GP 1:30,4:20,7:10,10:10
THE HITCHHIKER GP 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30
BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:20,3:10 MONSTER IN LAW PG13 6:05,8:25
MR. & MRSSMITH R13 12:05,2:35,5:05,7:35,10:05
MONSTER IN LAW PG13 12:55,3:15,5:35,7:55,10:15

star group of cinemas movie guide IN DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
starmall EDSA-SHAW Tel. No. 726.61.50: 3 Nasaan Ka Man; 4 Batman Begins; 5 Mr & Mrs Smith; P75 Lang Dolby Digital Pa Experience @ Starmall Edsa 4 & 5 Metropolis 5
METROPOLIS ALABANG star Tel. No. 850.42.85: 1 Kakalbang Karisma; 2 Mr & Mrs Smith; 3 Under Renovation; 4 Under Renovation; 5 Batman Begins; 6 Nasaan Ka Man
starmall LAS PIÑAS Tel. No. 873.50.04: 1 Sin City; 2 Rental Reservation; JAYA @ Starmall Edsa June 18 Saturday; Diether Ocampo @ Metropolis June 19 Sunday

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CINEMA 1 MR. & MRS. SMITH PG13 11:30, 2:05, 4:40, 7:15, 9:50
CINEMA 2 BATMAN BEGINS GP 12:00, 2:50, 5:40, 8:30,
DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX
PROMENADE
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NOW SHOWING
CINEMA 3 HITCHHIKERS GUIDE TO GALAXY GP 10:40, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25
CINEMA 4 MONSTER-IN-LAW PG13 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
CINEMA 5 BATMAN BEGINS GP 10:30, 1:20, 4:10, 7:00, 9:50
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the podium 633-8976: 1 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:00FS/12:30MF/02:50/05:10/9:730 09:15LFS/09:50LMF/11:35END; 2 BATMAN BEGINS 12:30FS/01:00MF/04:00/07:00/09:20 09:20LFS/10:00LMF/12:20END
megamall 633-1901: STARWARS: EPISODE III
manila: BATMAN BEGINS 10:10FS/10:20MF/01:00/03:40/08:20 08:50LFS/09:00LMF/11:45END
cebu (032) 231-3878: 1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:30FS/02:00MF/04:30/07:00 09:05LFS/09:30LFS/11:35END; 2 BATMAN BEGINS 10:35FS/10:50MF/01:30/04:10/06:50 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END; 3 HOUSE OF WAX 10:30FS/10:40MF/12:50/03:00/05:10/07:20 09:15LFS/09:30LMF/11:25END
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METRO MANILA
sm megamall: 1 STARWARS: EPISODE III; 2 BATMAN BEGINS; 3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 5 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION; 6 CLOSED FOR RENOVATION; 7 SHUTTER; 8 ICE PRINCESS; 9 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 10 BATMAN BEGINS; 11 NASAAN KA MAN; 12 HOTEL RWANDA
sm city fairview: 1 HOUSE OF WAX; 2 SIN CITY; 3 PREMONITION; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 5 NASAAN KA MAN; 6 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 7 BATMAN BEGINS; 8 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 9 SHUTTER; 10 SAY THAT YOU LOVE ME; 11 KILITI; 12 A LOT LIKE LOVE
sm north edsa: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 3 NASAAN KA MAN; 4 HOTEL RWANDA; 5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 6 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 7 BATMAN BEGINS; 8 MR. & MRS. SMITH
sm city sta mesa: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 4 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 5 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 6 SHUTTER; 7 UNLEASHED; 8 MAN OF THE HOUSE; 9 KILITI; 10 A LOT LIKE LOVE
sm city southmall: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 5 STARWARS: EPISODE III; 6 MADAGASCAR; 7 BATMAN BEGINS; 8 NASAAN KA MAN; 9 SIN CITY; 10 SHUTTER
sm city manila: 1 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 2 BATMAN BEGINS; 3 HOTEL RWANDA; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 6 BATMAN BEGINS; 7 A LOT LIKE LOVE; 8 LOVE ME IF YOU DARE; 9 NASAAN KA MAN; 10 HOUSE OF WAX; 11 SHUTTER; 12 PREMONITION
sm cinema tutuban: 1 RESERVED; 2 RESERVED; 3 RESERVED; 4 RESERVED
sm supercenter sucat: 1 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY; 4 BATMAN BEGINS
sm city bicutan: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 MONSTER-IN-LAW; 4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
LUZON
sm city pampanga: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 SIN CITY; 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 4 PREMONITION; 5 IN GOOD COMPANY; 6 NASAAN KA MAN
sm city baguio: 1 A LOT LIKE LOVE; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 4 BATMAN BEGINS
sm city bacoor: 1 KILITI; 2 SHUTTER; 3 BATMAN BEGINS; 4 MONSTER IN LAW; 5 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 6 NASAAN KA MAN; 7 PREMONITION; 8 BATMAN BEGINS
sm city marilao: 1 HOUSE OF WAX; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 4 BATMAN BEGINS
sm city dasmariñas: 1 PREMONITION; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 4 BATMAN BEGINS
sm city lucena: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 A LOT LIKE LOVE; 3 NASAAN KA MAN; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
sm city cagayan de oro: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 UNLEASHED; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH
VISAYAS AND MINDANAO
sm city cebu: 1 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 2 BATMAN BEGINS; 3 HOUSE OF WAX; 4 A LOT LIKE LOVE; 5 MADAGASCAR; 6 SHUTTER; 7 NASAAN KA MAN; 8 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS
sm city iloilo: 1 HOUSE OF WAX; 2 RESERVED; 3 BATMAN BEGINS; 4 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 5 NASAAN KA MAN; 6 UNLEASHED; 7 RESERVED; 8 COACH CARTER
sm city davao: 1 BATMAN BEGINS; 2 RING OF THE NIBELUNGS; 3 NASAAN KA MAN; 4 A LOT LIKE LOVE; 5 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 6 HOUSE OF WAX
sm city batangas: 1 MR. & MRS. SMITH; 2 NASAAN KA MAN; 3 BATMAN BEGINS; 4 HOUSE OF WAX
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GALLERIA 632-9115/16

1 BATMAN BEGINS • THX
12:30 3:30 6:30 9:30

2 BATMAN BEGINS
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
12:20 2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

4 HOTEL RWANDA
1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00

5 MONSTER-IN-LAW
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00

7 A LOT LIKE LOVE
2:40 5:00 7:20 9:40

8 NASAAN KA MAN
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

9 SHUTTER
12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00

10 MADAGASCAR
1:20 3:30 5:40 7:50 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 MONSTER-IN-LAW 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 SHUTTER
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 HOTEL RWANDA
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

5 BATMAN BEGINS
12:00 3:15 6:30 9:45

6 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

7 NASAAN KA MAN
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 SHUTTER
2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00

2 A LOT LIKE LOVE
12:05 2:20 4:30 6:45 9:00

3 KILITI
12:50 3:35 6:20 9:05

4 MONSTER-IN-LAW
1:25 4:00 6:35 9:10

5 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY
12:05 2:15 4:25 6:35 9:00

6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
12:00 2:25 4:45 7:15 9:30

7 BATMAN BEGINS
12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00

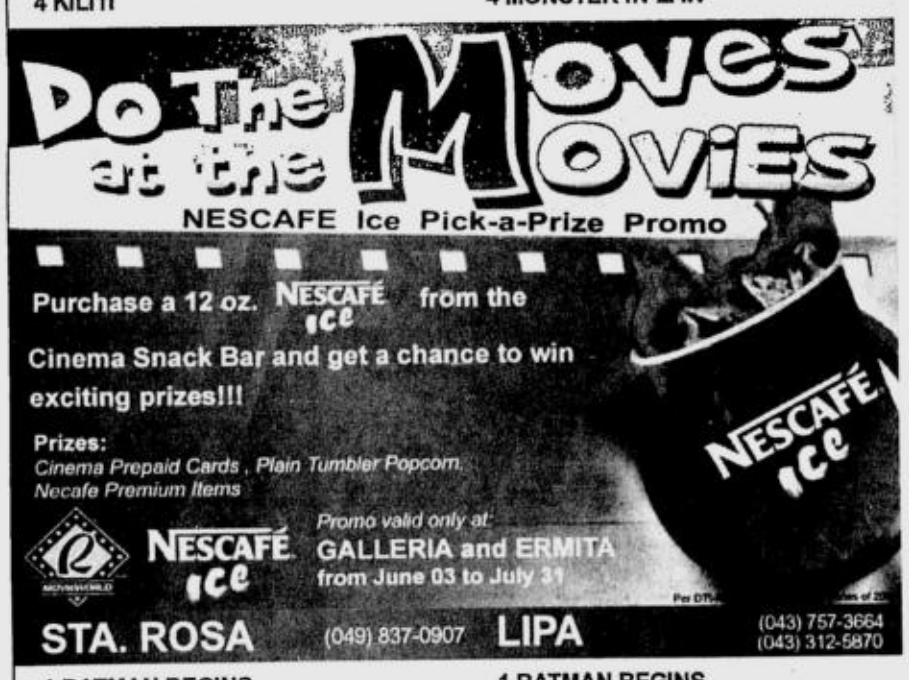
8 NASAAN KA MAN
12:55 3:35 6:15 9:00

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
2 BATMAN BEGINS
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 KILITI

PIONEER 687-5378

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 THE HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO GALAXY
4 MONSTER-IN-LAW



STA. ROSA (049) 837-0907

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 UNLEASHED
4 HOUSE OF WAX

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1 SIN CITY
2 SHUTTER
3 NASAAN KA MAN
4 BATMAN BEGINS

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 NASAAN KA MAN
2 MR. AND MRS. SMITH
3 THE AMITYVILLE HORROR
4 BATMAN BEGINS

STARMILLS (045) 875-1027 (045) 961-5270

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 UNLEASHED
3 A LOT LIKE LOVE
4 HOUSE OF WAX
5 NASAAN KA MAN
6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0450

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 A LOT LIKE LOVE
5 UNLEASHED
6 MR. AND MRS. SMITH

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 BATMAN BEGINS
2 NASAAN KA MAN
3 HOUSE OF WAX
4 UNLEASHED
5. MR. AND MRS. SMITH

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AYALA

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June 24-30, 2005

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"DON'T THINK" - A multi-media performance by Marge Enriquez (By Invitational Only)
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July 28,2005

Ayala MUSEUM

Registration for Art Workshops now on-going at Ayala Museum
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Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification call 729 7777

THX

G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 MONSTER-IN-LAW	4 NASAAN KA MAN
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH	2 BATMAN BEGINS	3 THX BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 HOTEL RWANDA	5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	6 MOSNTER-IN-LAW	7 NASAAN KA MAN
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MR. & MRS. SMITH 11:30, 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30		2 BATMAN BEGINS 12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:00	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MONSTER-IN-LAW 2:15, 4:30, 6:45, 9:00, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX BATMAN BEGINS 2:25, 5:10, 7:55, 10:40 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 NASAAN KA MAN 2:00, 4:20, 6:40, 9:00 BATMAN BEGINS 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 MR. & MRS. SMITH 1:30, 4:00, 6:30, 9:00, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX MONSTER-IN-LAW		2 BATMAN BEGINS	
	3 MR. & MRS. SMITH	4 HITCHHIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY	5 NASAAN KA MAN	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 A LOT LIKE LOVE	2 HOUSE OF WAX	3 BATMAN BEGINS	4 RING OF NIBELUNGS

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FREE picture taking & autograph signing with the stars for the first thirty (30) moviegoers who will present their HAPPILY EVER AFTER movietickets at the Glorietta 1 cinema customer service booth on July 1.

The film HAPPILY EVER AFTER opens June 29 at Ayala Cinemas

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Customer Service text hotline:	Glorietta - 752 7272; from 10am to 8pm Greenbelt - 757 4853; from 11am to 12mn
Alabang Town Center -	842 2782; from 10am to 8pm
Ayala Center Cebu -	(032) 231 5342 loc 324

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3. Hotel Rwanda
4. Nasaan Ka Man

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6. Monster-in-Law
7. Batman begins

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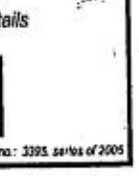
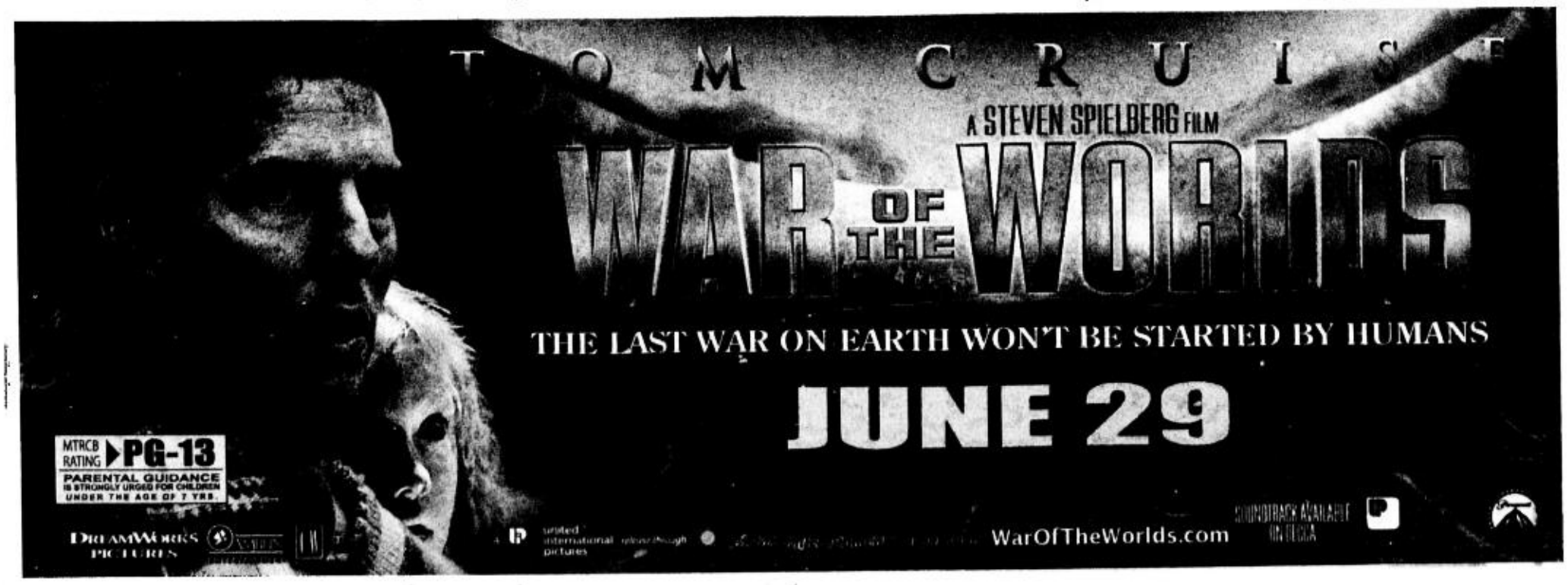


Per DTI-NCR permit no.: 3395, series of 2005



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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

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Carrie's single tops 4 Billboard charts

OKLAHOMA CITY—Carrie Underwood's single "Inside Your Heaven" sold 170,000 copies in its first week, making it the best-selling song so far of 2005, according to her publicist.

The single by Underwood, the newly crowned American Idol, debuted at No. 1 on four charts by Billboard magazine—the Billboard Hot 100, the Pop 100, singles sales and country singles sales.

Her publicist, Jessie Schmidt, said the success is impressive because the single won't be released to radio stations for air play until July 5.

"My dreams continue to come true," Underwood said in a statement on Thursday. She won the wildly popular singing talent competition in May. "Thanks to the fans for voting me as their Idol and for wanting to hear—and have—my music."

The 22-year-old Underwood made Billboard history as the first country artist to debut at No. 1 on the Hot 100. It's the first time a country song has hit No. 1 since Lonestar's "Amazed" in 2000.

"I think it's great," Underwood's grandfather, Carl Shatswell, said. "She's No. 1 on the radio. I'm going to buy a CD. I never did care much about them CD players, but I will buy one and I'll listen to it somewhere."

Underwood sang the national anthem before the start of Game 4 of the NBA Finals in Auburn Hills, Michigan, on June 16. AP

"MY DREAMS continue to come true." The Idol at the NBA Finals. AP

LVN in final talks with one group

By Clarissa S. Batino, *Business* and Bayani San Diego Jr., *Entertainment*

FILM producers Menardo "Butch" Jimenez Jr. and Antonio "Tony" Gloria have joined forces to bid for the assets of LVN Pictures Inc.

With less than a week before the pioneer film studio's June 30 closure, the duo is emerging as the strongest contender for the LVN Laboratory, which reportedly failed to generate sufficient revenue to stay afloat.

In the first quarter of this year, sources said, the company processed and printed "less than five" movies. The sources said other groups that earlier expressed interest in LVN were the Lopezes' Video Post (Roadrunner), Lily Monteverde's Regal Films and GMA Network Inc.

LVN's major shareholders have evaluated the proposals and decided "to engage in exclusive discussions" with the Jimenez-Gloria tie-up.

This information was confirmed by Gloria in a phone interview with INQUIRER Entertainment. "Butch Jimenez and I, along with other people, have an agreement with the De Leon family, owners of LVN Pictures," he said.

This agreement, Gloria assured industry watchers, would involve the "continuation of the operations of LVN Laboratory."

Gloria, president and chief executive officer of Unitel Productions, recalled: "When I first heard about LVN's impending sale, I immediately talked to Butch. We both know how important LVN is. As of now, it is the only laboratory with film printing capabilities in the country and a lot of people depend on it."

The group of Jimenez and Gloria, according to the sources, offered between P25 million and P30 million for the laboratory assets, mostly equipment used in film processing and post-production services.

Banking sources privy to results of a due diligence on LVN Pictures said the post-production company was valued at about P30 million. They said the company's assets, however, are worth a little bit more—between P35 million and P45 million.

"I can only confirm that we are in the final stages of discussion prior to the signing of the deed of sale," said Jimenez, who is also head of the retail group of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.

"We've been friends for over 15 years," Gloria said of Jimenez. "He is not just a businessman; he's also very creative. And he sincerely loves movies."

Unitel Pictures produced the critically acclaimed movies "Crying Ladies" and "La Visa Loca." Jimenez spearheaded the production of award-winning epics "Rizal" and "Muro Ami" when he was still with GMA Films.

> Two film producers join forces to bid for the assets of the studio, which shuts down on June 30

In 1990, Jimenez and Gloria established Optima Digital, a leading production house specializing in special effects for TV commercials and on-line editing.

Jimenez said, "I see a strategic fit in the printing and processing equipment of LVN and the operations of Optima Digital."

In spite of the digital revolution, Gloria insisted, "a film laboratory would still be crucial because film and digital are complementary technologies."

A concrete example is Unitel's latest offering: Peque Gallaga's "Pinoy Blonde," shot on high-definition [digital camera] and "blown up" to film.

"It will take 10 more years [before the industry can go completely digital]," Gloria noted. "It's because there is still no world standard in digital projection. As of now, film projection is still widely used in local movie houses."

Many independent digital filmmakers like Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil ("Mga Pusang Gala") and Brillante Mendoza ("Masahista") are likewise planning to "blow up" their digital works to 35mm film.

"If this [deal] pushes through," Gloria said, "we'll have access to both digital and film labs."

FOXTROT BY BILL AMEND

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL

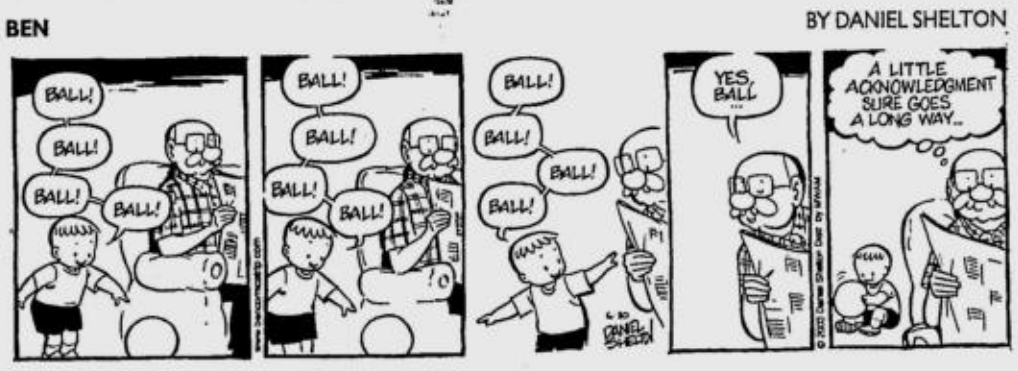
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

LAPIDA NINA RONALD REAGAN, BEN GURION AT RONALD McDONALD

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON



KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're extremely determined. You can be convincing when you want to be. You need to feel sure of yourself before you expand your world. This is why you like to plan ahead. Furthermore, you will always protect yourself and your loved ones. (You don't act rashly.) Work hard this year for rewards in 2006.
Birthdate of: Tobey Maguire, actor; Vera Wang, fashion designer; Isabelle Adjani, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Home, family and domestic issues are your primary focus now. Do what you can to make improvements in these areas. Express your affection for those you care about.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're in the right frame of mind for important negotiations, signing contracts and making deals with others. You're aware of everything that you need to know.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a good day to ask yourself about your bottom-line values. What really matters to you? You have to know this so you can make future plans.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): With the Sun in your sign now, your confidence is growing! That's why you're willing to consider a business deal or major purchase right now. You can pull things off successfully.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Today, both Mercury and Venus move into your sign. This enormously improves your ability to deal with others. Your charm and intelligence shine now!

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Discuss your plans with a good friend. Feedback from others can be helpful today. Sometimes a fresh pair of eyes can see something you're missing.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Don't be worried if you think people expect a lot from you now. You can deliver the goods! Four planets high in your chart make you look great in the eyes of others!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Travel plans are encouraging. If you're not traveling, perhaps you're dealing with someone who is far away from you. You can solve matters related to travel and higher education now.

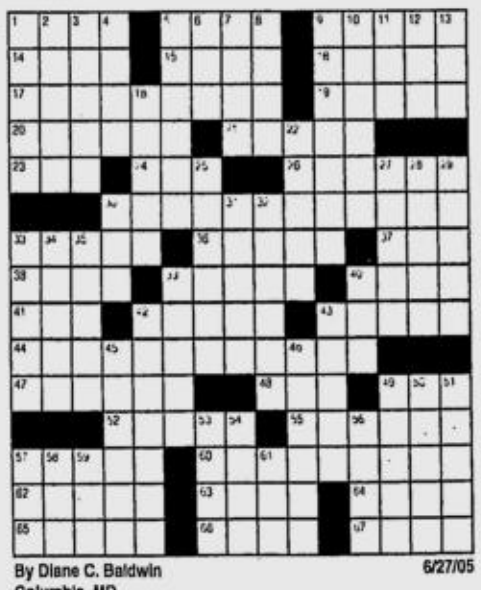
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Your passionate desires are aroused now. You feel very intensely, not only about relationships, but also about a lot of things going on right now in your life. (That's OK.)

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): This is a good time to come to important agreements with others. You see where people are coming from. This makes it easy for you to reach a good understanding.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Sometimes we play; sometimes we work. This is a time of work for you. Just tackle whatever needs to be done. You have the incentive and the energy to accomplish much.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Financial investments look quite favorable. You've done your homework. The arts, professional sports and romance are areas that bring you sweet rewards now.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD
6/27/05

ACROSS
1 Spill the beans
5 '50s crooner Perry
9 Hindu religious teacher
14 Lessen
15 Washington bills
16 Fragrant wood
17 Gridiron finale
19 Waste maker?
20 More cliched
21 Spiritual natures
23 Cul-de-__
24 Family figures
26 Wiggle room
30 Chic dresser
33 Dogie or alley cat
36 Remove a lid
37 Hodges of baseball
38 Given a hint
39 Embody with
40 Survey
41 Long in the tooth
42 Up to
43 Big tops
44 Alien transportation
47 Tributary
48 Chump
49 Poetic meadow
52 Tripod for art
55 Argues back
57 Gold fineness measure
60 Yellow wildflower
62 Upper crust
63 Melancholy
64 Confidential assistant
65 Country on the Red Sea
66 Backups, in brief
67 Genesis place

DOWN
1 Triumphs over
2 Mrs. Bush
3 Savory jelly
4 Borscht vegetable
5 Hooded snakes
6 Lennon's love
7 Cat sounds
8 Norway's capital
9 Lug laboriously
10 Mink's cousin
11 Madison Ave. offerings
12 Tumbling cushion
13 High dudgeon
18 Discharge a debt
22 Forearm bones
25 Railroad switches
27 Conestoga
28 Slightly inclined
29 Makes oneself heard
30 Passing craze
31 Nepal's neighbor
32 Eyelike window
33 Treat with derision
34 Tutu fabric
35 Touch-up color job
39 Some M.I.T. grads
40 Part of mph
42 Like leftovers
43 Conical home
45 Form a thought
46 Pierre's bills of fare
49 Intelligible
50 Piano study
51 Leafy quaker
53 Flows out
54 Pip
56 Highland hillside
57 Crucial fact
58 Tavern quaff
59 Lip
61 Wide, clumsy boat

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

P	A	S	S	I	M		S	O	C	I	A	B	L	E
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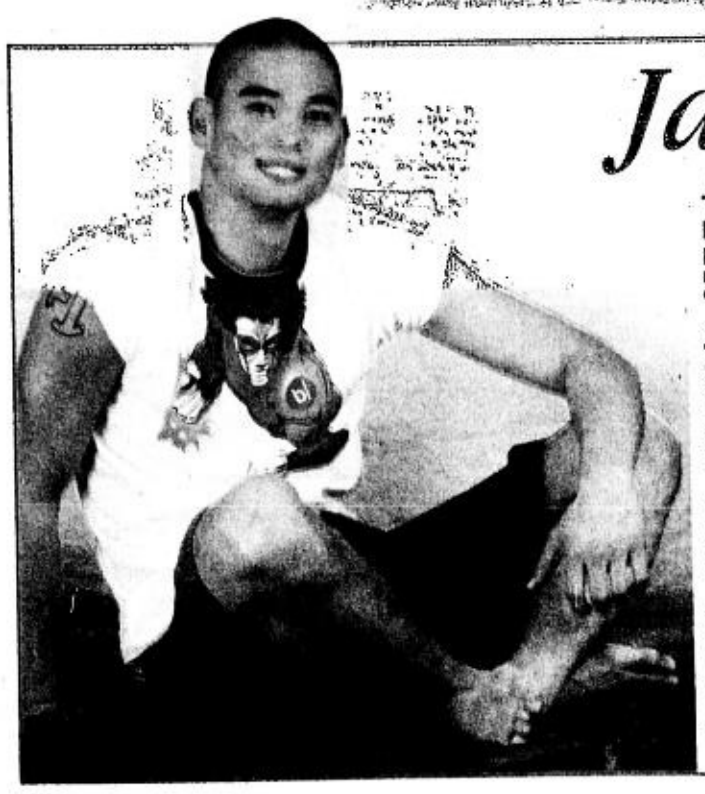


Jay-R: Footloose

Text, styling and direction by Larry Leviste
Photos: Jim Guiao Punzalan
MEN'S WEAR BY BENCH
GROOMING BY DIENIE ORTIZ

JAY-R, born Gaudencio Aquino Sillona III, has every reason to be smiling 24/7—as he sings in his endorsement of Sun Cellular. He is setting aside song composing and recording (in his two studios in New Manila) for the moment. Why, you ask?

This smart and sexy song artist is Meily's launching movie, which is being rushed to make a July 20 play date. Jay-R's onscreen squeeze is Nadine Samonte.

Jay-R is also rehearsing for the lead role in the local production of "Footloose." It's his theatrical debut, in the lead role of Ren, which made Kevin Bacon an icon of the 1980s. Stages, sister company of Trumpets, is presenting 15 shows at the Meralco Auditorium in September.

"I'm always the first one to think I'm a bad actor. For my first film role as Kris Aquino's husband in a movie, I felt very self-conscious. And my TV guesting in GMA 7's "Love to Love" was too corny for comfort. I always think I look dopey," Jay-R revealed to INQUIRER Entertainment during this pictorial.

Infamy has hounded Jay-R since he signed up with his new manager Arnold Vegafria. Show biz gossips say Arnold was dealing with rival station ABS-CBN and negotiated three shows for the singer-actor.

"Not true. I'm still under contract with GMA 7. I have final say, even if Arnold wants me to leave," said Jay-R.

Detractors say it was a move to dump his aunt and manager, choreographer Geleen Eugenio, who earlier plucked him from Glendale, California, and brought him here.

Jay-R must weigh matters carefully, especially since Lady Luck has very obviously taken a liking to him.

Why Oprah is 'queen'

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHO WOULD have thought? In the predominantly W.A.S.P. Unite States of America, Forbes Magazine has found that the most powerful and prosperous celebrity last year was—**Oprah Winfrey!**

Oprah beat show biz titans like **Steven Spielberg** and **Tom Cruise**. That's no mean feat! Her achievement is deemed even more remarkable because she represents two heretofore disadvantaged groups in the entertainment world—women and blacks.

Traditionally, and all too sadly, female stars have tended to be paid less than male superstars, especially in the action and adventure film types, from which many of the big blockbusters emerge. So, the fact that TV host-producer and occasional film talent-producer Oprah is a *billionaire* is nothing short of amazing.

Cavalier treatment

As for the black factor, Hollywood has been notorious for its cavalier treatment of African-American talents for many decades. Even at this time, when **Denzel Washington** and **Will Smith** command hefty talent fees, the rise to the top in Hollywood is still a bumpy ride for most black entertainers.

So, what has enabled Oprah to demolish the competition, as well as all preconceived notions about just how far a black female talent can go?

Instructively, Oprah began her TV career like most everybody else, playing it safe and observing the limits imposed on newcomers like her in the profession.

Later, however, she experienced an epiphany on the true power of the television medium, and how it could transform, inspire and empower viewers to become better people. Oprah acted on that new realization, and determinedly started using her show for good, rather than just for popularity and ratings.

Some of her TV colleagues warned the "suicidal" host-producer that her noble intention could write *finis* to her career. But she decided to act on her best instincts, anyway—and the result surprised everyone, perhaps including even herself: Oprah's refocused and reinvigorated talk show zoomed to the top!

Even when other talk-show hosts like **Jerry Springer** came up with sleazy episodes that appealed to viewers' worst proclivities, Oprah's show held its own, quickly developing a loyal viewership made up of people who wanted to become the best they could possibly be.

Six lessons

Yes, the show's viewership is still predominantly female, and it still goes in for fashion, home decor and makeover topics—but it now does much more than that, inspiring viewers to think not only of themselves, but also of others.

Amazingly, even as Oprah dared to be different, her show did even better financially, giving her the capital to produce some movies and publish her own monthly magazine. And now, she's been officially hailed by Forbes magazine as the "queen" of US show biz.

We trust that the lessons taught by Oprah's success story are eminently clear:

- One, think of other people rather than just yourself, and you won't go wrong. Even better, the universe will reward you for your selflessness.
- Two, act on your best instincts, and don't get sidetracked by doubts and fears.
- Third, do what you do best, and do it to the utmost of your abilities.
- Fourth, make yourself an instrument for good.
- Fifth, don't do what everybody else is doing. Even better, don't get sucked down to other people's levels.
- Sixth, know your audience and market, and what it *really* wants. In Oprah's case, she knew that the viewers perceived as lazy and stupid couch potatoes *really* wanted to become better people—and she dared to show them how!

TV gay keeps gay scribes at bay

Keempee de Leon's mentor in the newfound specialization is his famous dad Joey

METROSEXUAL ghost role was "fun."

By Nini Valera

COMEDIAN Keempee de Leon, who's popular for portraying a gay role in his television sitcom, wants to keep gay show biz reporters at bay.

"I don't want them touching me," he told INQUIRER Entertainment in an exclusive interview. "It's okay to just talk. *Ayoko ng mga nagtsa*-chancing."

Keempee, 32, headlines "Multong Bakla," one of the trilogies in director Maryo J. de Los Reyes' "Happily Ever After," a feel-good movie that also features love teams Yasmin Kurdi and Rainier Castillo, John Prats and Maxene Magalona, Nadine Samonte and Tyron Perez.

In the film produced by MAQ Productions, Keempee portrays a gay ghost who plays tricks on young lovers Nadine and Tyron.

Keempee described the role as "fun, *masaya*."

"I think this is the first time that a gay is also a ghost in a movie," he observed. "I loved doing it."

Unlike the drag queen characters that his dad, Joey de Leon, is known for, Keempee has opted to portray his gay character as a metrosexual.

"He wears men's clothes, but he thinks and feels like a woman," said Keempee. "His hair is also always short, and he doesn't wear wigs or makeup. That's the difference between my gay character and my Dad's."

Even so, he admitted, "Dad is one of my mentors." In addition, he looks to Dolphy, and the late Charlie Chaplin and Rene Requiestas for inspiration.

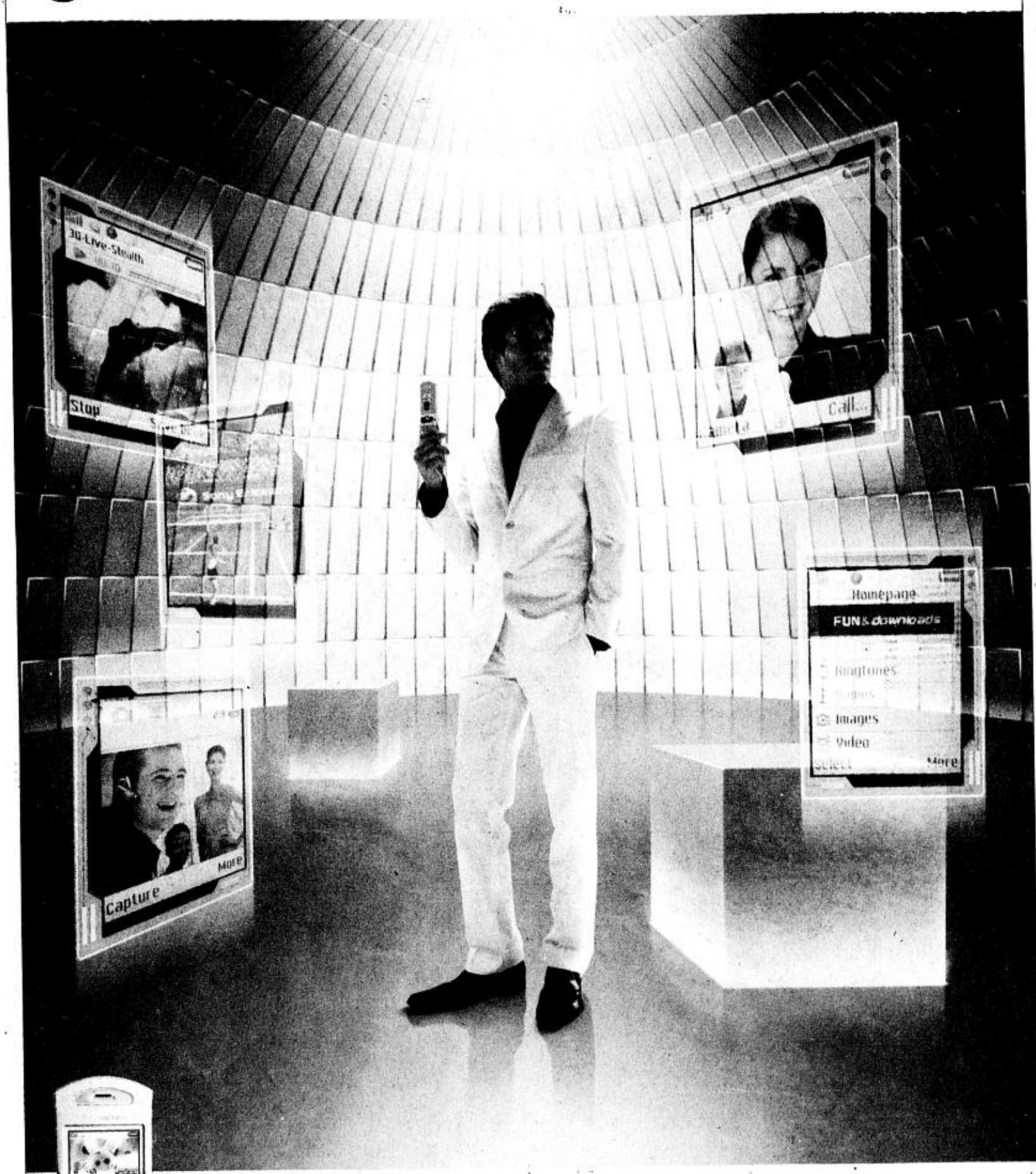
But once he starts tackling a gay character, he's on his own.

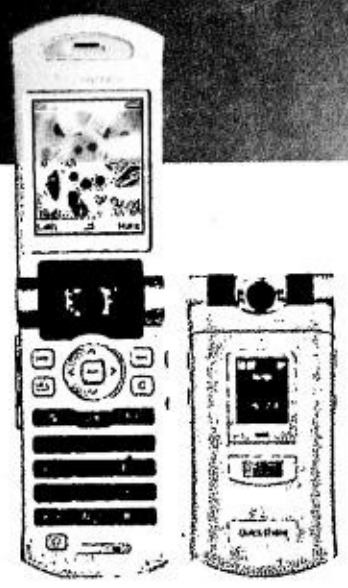
"I research," he confided. "I watch movies with gay characters and talk to my sister Chinny who has lots of gay friends. From there, I develop my character's personality."

A drug problem in the 1990s took Keempee away from the limelight and into voluntary rehabilitation for 45 days. At present, the lack of movie roles keep him on television. He's one of the hosts of "Eat Bulaga," the longest-running noontime show, and he's in the sitcom "Bahay Mo Ba 'To," where he has transformed the gay character he plays into an art form.

"I miss doing drama," he admitted. "Comedy is like playing, so that's okay. But I'd like to do a dramatic movie again. I've done action movies, too. I'd like to be known as a versatile actor."

Sony Ericsson





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ELSE WHERE

Hermes is gonna hear from Oprah

CHICAGO—US talk show queen Oprah Winfrey is convinced she was turned away from a Hermes store in Paris because she is black and she plans to tell her millions of viewers about it, a spokesperson said Friday. "Oprah does have plans to discuss the incident on air when she returns in September," the spokesperson said. Winfrey has also decided to boycott the store, the spokesperson confirmed. The luxury goods house issued a public apology Friday, saying Winfrey was denied entry on June 14 because she arrived after standard business hours and while a private PR event was being set up inside. But according to a report in the New York Daily News, Winfrey believes she would have been admitted to the store had she been a white celebrity. The spokesperson also confirmed that store clerks recognized Winfrey when she asked to pop in for a moment to buy a watch for her friend, singer Tina Turner. *AFP*

Don't go where they are

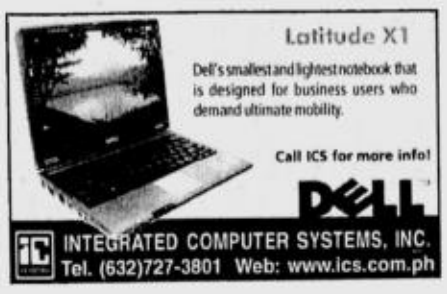
LOS ANGELES—Actress Selma Blair has the obvious solution to being hounded by the paparazzi —don't go where the photographers are. Blair, whose screen credits include "Cruel Intentions," "Legally Blonde" and "In Good Company," avoids the restaurants and streets in Los Angeles where the paparazzi hang out. "I love The Ivy. I won't go there that much because you know there's paparazzi. I love shopping on Robertson (Boulevard). You know if you go, you'd better put on a cute skirt because they're going to get a picture of you," the 33-year-old actress told reporters recently, according to AP Radio. *AP*

It's a girl for 'Brenda'

LOS ANGELES—Actress Rachel Griffiths, best known for her role as a former sex addict on HBO's mortuary drama "Six Feet Under," has given birth to her second child, People magazine reported on its website. Griffiths gave birth Thursday to a daughter at a Los Angeles hospital, the magazine reported Friday. It is the second child for Griffiths and her artist husband Andrew Taylor. The couple have a 17-month-old son named Banjo Patrick. *AP*

Was there a secret Brando?

NEW YORK—The personal effects of Hollywood legend Marlon Brando, from his driver's licenses to a fake bloody finger, go on sale next week in an auction that may provide clues to the life of the private, eccentric actor. The more than 300 lots in Thursday's auction at Christie's are being sold by Brando's estate and are expected to sell for more than $1 million. Many of the lots feature scripts, pictures, clothing and other materials from Brando's movies, including 36 pages of Brando's notes on "Mutiny On The Bounty." Also included are a note from "The Godfather" author Mario Puzo appealing to Brando to take the starring role in the movie, a telegram to Marilyn Monroe when she was hospitalized for depression, his old wallets, credit cards and a medical alert tag listing his allergy to penicillin. Four Japanese lacquer boxes are filled with jokes and magic tricks, including a fake severed finger. Brando biographer Peter Manso called the auction "grossly insensitive." *Reuters*



MONDAY, JUNE 27, 2005

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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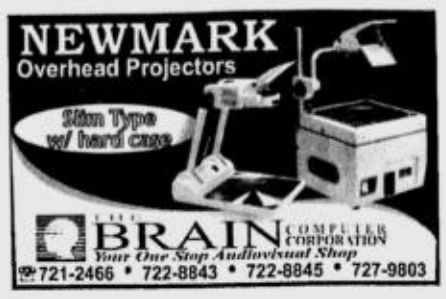


Ailing Makati Med looks to MVP for cure

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE MAKATI Medical Center, once the country's premier hospital, is financially bleeding.

INQUIRER sources said that Makati Med was now in dire financial straits allegedly due to mismanagement.

They said the hospital's books were in disarray, with huge receivables that have remained uncollected and several expensive yet idle medical equipment.

Makati Med's financial woes have forced it to lay off some staff and the sources said that more employees faced displacement.

In its search for a cure to its financial malaise, Makati Med has set its sight on telecom czar Manuel V. Pangilinan.

INQUIRER sources said the hospital, controlled by the Fores and Araneta families, had invited Pangilinan, popularly known in the business community as MVP, to join its board of directors and, most likely, be eventually asked to infuse money into the company.

Pangilinan, chair of Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and managing head of Hong Kong-based First Pacific Ltd., had successfully turned around a number of financially troubled companies, among them PLDT and subsidiary Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Makati Med's owners and management have been tapping business gurus who can help them correct the worsening situation and eventually turn the hospital's finances around.

Pangilinan is the latest being asked to find a cure to Makati Med's problems. Only recently, the Makati Med board tapped former Asian Institute of Management president Gabino Mendoza to join the hospital.

"Yes, I have been invited (to be a director) and I am considering it," Pangilinan said in a text message.

"But I am looking at the situation, particularly the Med's financial position. *Daming problema pala* (It has a lot of problems though)," he added.

Asked whether he had already been asked to put in money, Pangilinan simply said that Makati Med's situation was that it really needed new capital. He did not elaborate.

Sources said Makati Med's net worth stood at only P1.8 billion last year against P3.5 billion in 2003. Outstanding loans, they added, were more than P2 billion.

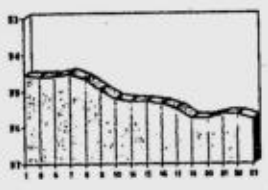
The hospital reportedly managed to register a net income of P25.3 mil-

AILING/ B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



₱ 55.650 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2005

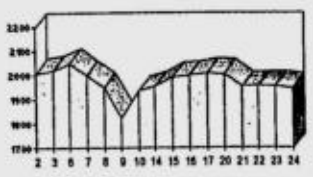
¥ 109.22 = $ 1
As of 5 p.m., June 24, 2005

GOLD: $442.90-443.40
per ounce Hong Kong, June 24, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Volatile trading seen

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



SHARE prices are still expected to be volatile this week with some pockets of bargain-hunting, analysts said.

Jojo Gonzales, head of research at Philippine Equity Partners Inc., said the market was still hostage to the political controversies hounding President Gloria Arroyo.

(See stock market report on Page B4)

More than 5,000 street protesters demanded the resignation of the President on Friday, while a former senator had called for a snap election to decide the President's fate.

The President has been bombarded with allegations of election fraud and her family has been liked to payoffs from jueteng, an illegal numbers game.

"Volumes are expected to be subdued. There is no clear driver until these House and Senate hearings are closed or produce useful results," Gonzales said.

Astro del Castillo, managing director at investment firm First Grade Holdings Inc. and concurrently a director of the Association of Securi

VOLATILE/ B4

TRADERS buy and sell vegetables at the giant vegetable trading post in the La Trinidad valley. Potatoes, carrots, cabbages and other vegetables are trucked into the wholesale market from terraced mountain plots across the Cordillera region, where some 4,000 wholesalers buy between 1,000 and 1,500 tonnes (2.2-3.3 million pounds) of vegetables every day, said the market inspector. These are eventually sold in Manila and other urban centers. AFP

WHAT'S INSIDE

SMC to tap Australian fund to complete NatFoods takeover /B4

COCKTALES/B3

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BOI grants incentives to Chemrez Inc.'s bio-diesel project

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE BOARD of Investments announced it had approved tax incentives for a P980-million bio-diesel project of Chemrez Inc.

The project comes at a time when the use of alternative fuels is being pushed to cushion the effects of escalating crude oil prices.

Chemrez currently produces resins, colorants and chemicals.

Chemrez is a unit of D&L Group—a leading provider of colors, chemicals and plastics in the country.

Under the new project, the company would produce bio-diesel using crude coconut oil as raw material.

The firm would also put up the first and most modern large-scale bio-diesel plant in Asia.

The plant is capable of producing 50,000 metric tons of bio-diesel a year.

The product, which would be sold under the brand "Bioactiv," was described as an enhancer that will help burn the fuel cleanly, without having to modify diesel engines.

According to the BOI, the product treats many of the problems that other additives address, such as cleansing, lubricating and oxygenating the fuel for efficient combustion, longer mileage and cleaner emission.

The agency said extensive tests conducted in the Philippines, Japan and Korea confirm the benefits of the product.

It is recommended that Bioactiv be blended with diesel at ratios between 1 and 5 percent.

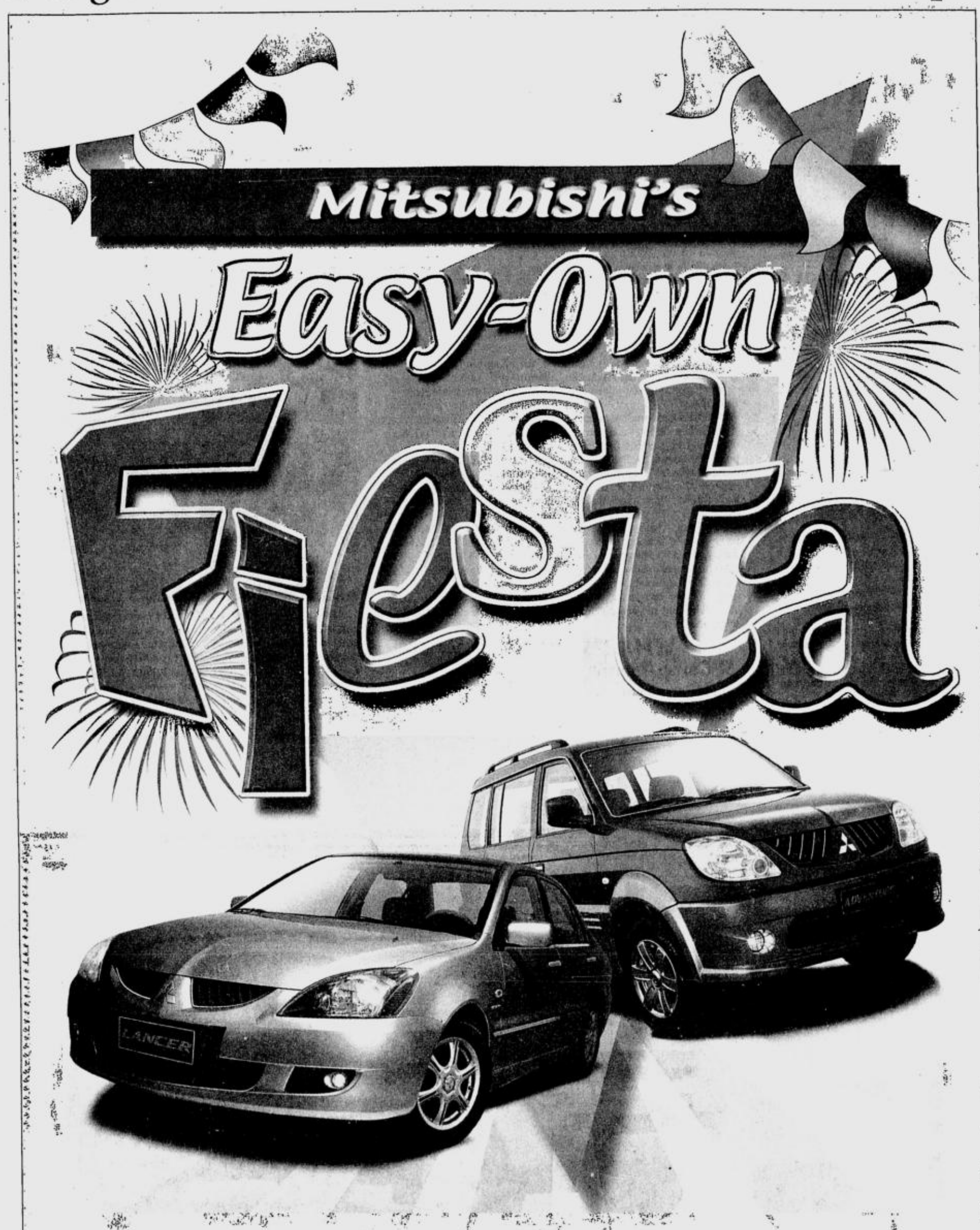
Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said the development of coco bio-diesel was considered a major breakthrough for the country, being the first to tap coconut oil to fuel diesel motors.

It was also for this reason that the BOI granted pioneer status to Chemrez's project.

BOI-registered projects enjoy incentives, such as income tax holidays, duty-free importation of capital equipment and other fiscal and non-fiscal perks.

Santos encouraged other companies to develop new products using raw materials that are abundant in the country.

"Using indigenous products as raw materials develops our local industries and at the same time produces manufactured goods that are needed by the local—and possibly the overseas—market."



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LANCER 1.6 MX CVT	838,000	120,600	22,315	15,608	14,195
ADVENTURE GLX DSL (9 seater)	745,000	116,000	19,839	13,876	12,620
ADVENTURE GLS SPORT GAS M/T	800,000	140,000	21,303	14,900	13,552
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Business unusual at ABS-CBN

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

FRIDAY had been a messy, most stressful day for ABS-CBN honchos Eugenio Lopez III and Luis Alejandro.

The two spent the whole day handholding while handing out letters of redundancy to 35 news and current affairs staffers, including the most senior, vice president Jesus Maderazo, as well as the personal secretary of the late patriarch Eugenio Lopez Jr., reporter Twinkle Valdez.

Talking heads Erwin Tulfo, Pia Hontiveros, and Gene Orejana likewise opted for early retirement, although all three still remain "talents" and will continue hosting their respective talk shows.

According to the grapevine, a number of the 35 veteran broadcasters broke down upon receiving the news, despite the management offer of a generous three-month salary for every year of service as separation package.

The early retirees constituted about a fifth of the news and currents affairs division, right on the target 20-percent across-the-board reduction that the management hopes to achieve to return the fallen market leader back on championship track.

To strengthen news-gathering and elevate it from the *sampalan-sabunutan* staple that its prime-time TV Patrol has been filling its one-hour airtime, ABS-CBN appointed former CNN regional bureau chief Maria Ressa, who joined January as consultant, as news and current affairs head.

The division used to be headed by Erap Press Secretary Ricardo Puno Jr., who chose to remain as talk show host after he was made to toe the management line that news executives could not simultaneously host public affairs programs.

Along with Ressa, a former staffer, Charie Villa, has also been lured back from Reuters TV Asia to head newsgathering, replacing David Jude Sta. Ana, whom the network had pirated from GMA7.

"The objective of this reorganization is to strengthen the position of ABS-CBN as the most credible and respected in the field of news and current affairs, guided by world-class values, principles, and operating standards," Lopez and Alejandro said in a joint statement.

Henceforth, if the grapevine were to be believed, the Lopez network would also include critical news instead of kid-glove treatments that Lopez-related companies like Manila Electric Co. and Manila North Luzon Tollways Corp. have been getting.

And unlike GMA-7, ABS-CBN will continue with its policy of prohibiting its news anchors and personnel from endorsing commercial products, as well as taking on political and public relations consultancies, another ABS-CBN official added.

The return of George Go

IT looks like George Go is dead set in returning to Equitable PCIBank.

According to the grapevine, the former bank chair has already instructed his lawyer, retired Justice Manuel Lazaro, to press on his entitlement to a board seat in the Go family holding corporation, Equitable Development Corp., which would be George's backdoor route toward regaining a board seat in Equitable PCIBank.

George, who could do no wrong in the eyes of his family when he engineered the Equitable takeover of PCIBank during the Estrada years, was nevertheless ousted by his brothers and sisters when the political winds shifted and Erap fled from Malacañang.

If the grapevine is to be believed, George is now even collaborating with the SSS and GSIS, and even providing documents that not only are the Gos unilaterally appropriating the 10-percent block held by the bank's investment banking subsidiary, the family has also been voting for themselves the shareholdings of the Equitable Foundation, the bank's charity arm, to keep their "artificial majority" hold on the merged banks.

George Go is said to be spending most of his time now in California. Hmmm, is that why Equitable PCIBank vice chair Ferdinand Martin Romualdez left last week for San Francisco?

Money-go-round

• THE PRO-GMA Lakas party is leaving the controversial LTA building to bigger offices in the Glass Tower, also in Legaspi Village, a building owned by the family of GMA political adviser Joey Rufino.

• THE LANDMARK Max's Restaurant in Greenbelt is next month moving across the street to a much smaller space in Greenbelt 1, in view of Ayala Land's plan to demolish the structure and the temporary parking garage behind it.

Heard through the grapevine

UNILAB heir Jose Campos Jr. is seriously planning to acquire the Cirio stake in Del Monte provided he could find a way to dodge a general rights-offer to the other shareholders, including the Lorenzos, of the Singapore-listed canned foods conglomerate.

Campos wants to fold in Del Monte within his profitable UFC catsup-Datu Puti vinegar business.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtds.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

FIRST QUARTER

Public sector deficit below target at ₱56.6B

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEFICIT of the entire public sector grew year-on-year by 10 percent to P56.6 billion in the first quarter, as the national government posted a slightly higher budget gap and local government units generated a lower surplus.

The latest consolidated public sector deficit (CPSD)—which includes among others the deficits (or suprlus) of the national government, LGUs and state-owned companies—was equivalent to 4.7 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

Historical data from the Department of Finance showed that the CPSD stood at only P51.3 billion in the first quarter of 2004.

Despite the growth in the CPSD, the Department of Finance said the public sector remained on track to meet the target of reducing the deficit to only P203.92 billion for the full year, from P235.9 billion recorded for the whole of 2004.

It noted that despite the increase in the deficit, the figure was still better than the official CPSD target for the period of P69.9 billion.

The DOF said measures aimed at generating more revenues for the national government and at instilling financial discipline among government-owned and -controlled corporations (GOCCs) were seen to impact in the second half of the year.

"This is a good start. We are inspired by the gains we have achieved so far and continue to persevere with our reform initiatives especially governance reforms in our GOCCs, which remain a crucial weak link in our fiscal position," Finance Secretary Cesar Purisima said in a statement.

DOF data showed that the increase in the CPSD in the first quarter was attributed partly to the P6.62-billion increase in the deficit of the national government. The national government's budget deficit for the period was earlier reported to have stood at P63.47 billion from the year-ago level of P56.85 billion.

The national government's budget deficit was, however, better than the official target of P77.8 billion.

While the national government expected its deficit to be higher year-on-year in the first quarter, it targets to post a decline for the full year. The DOF has set a target of reducing the national government's budget deficit for the whole year to only P180 billion from P187 billion last year.

The DOF even projected that the actual deficit of the national government for 2005 would be better than target, as proceeds of recently implemented fiscal reform measures are expected to impact in the second half.

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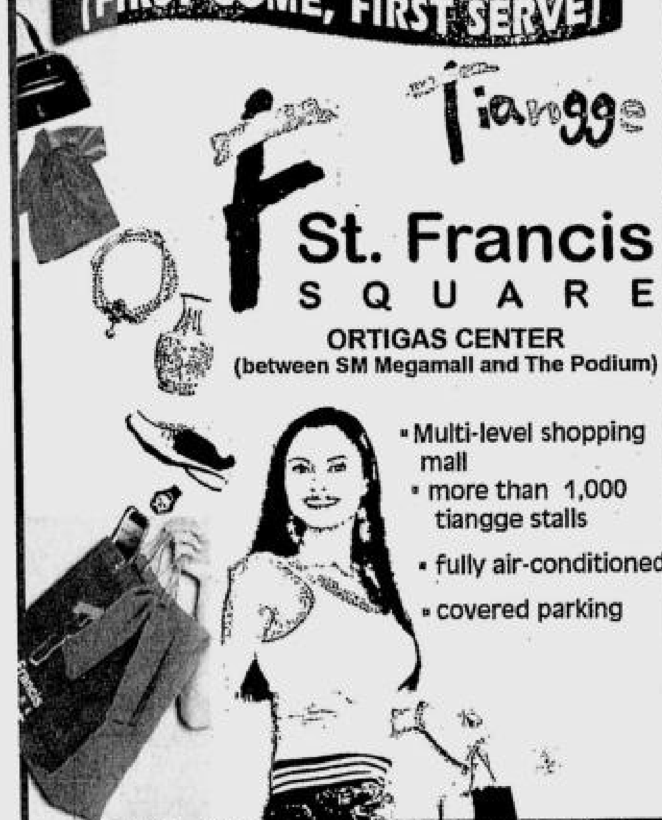

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Taiwan firm investing ₱738M in Subic

By Ronnel W. Domingo

AN ELECTRONICS giant headquartered in Taiwan is investing P738 million to assemble personal digital assistants at the Subic Bay Industrial Park, the Department of Trade and Industry said.

Wistron Infocomm (Philippines) Corp., the local unit of Wistron Corp., is currently engaged in the manufacture of motherboards and laptop computer units and is the biggest export earner in Subic.

Wistron also makes computer peripherals, fax machines, integrated circuits, and microelectronic parts and software for various computer brands like Acer, IBM and Hitachi.

In 2004, Wistron posted revenues of $747 million or about two-thirds of the total export earnings within the Subic freeport.

The DTI said that for the new project, Wistron would hire 195 additional workers for the assembly of an average of 300,000 units of PDA Lite or P18 yearly.

The output, which are used as electronic organizers or day planners, would be distributed in Europe, the United States and Asia.

Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos said the Board of Investments had approved tax perks and other incentives for Wistron's project since it would be the first project in the manufacture of PDAs.

Santos said the company's decision indicated the confidence of Taiwanese businessmen in putting up big-ticket projects in the country and making it their manufacturing base for sophisticated products.

The move also meant investors "place(d) a deep trust in the capability of Filipino workers in producing high-end consumer electronic products for the export market."

PDAs, also called handhelds or palmtops, have become popular because of their small size, ease in using and capability to share information with personal computers.

Aside from managing personal information such as contacts, appointments and to-do lists, the latest models of the gadget could connect to the Internet, act as global positioning system (GPS) devices and run multimedia software. Some manufacturers have combined PDAs with cell phones, multimedia players and other functions of electronic gadgetry.

According to the DTI, Wistron has the capability of embedding many of the these features and functions into its products.

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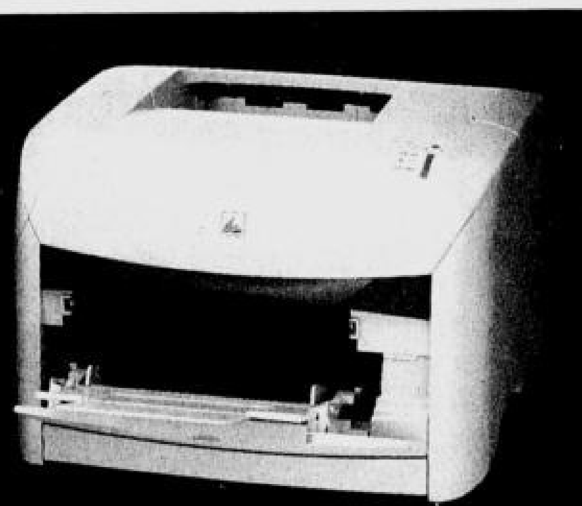

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• Second prize – Canon Prima Zoom 80u Camera (one winner)
• Third prize – Canon BF800 Camera (one winner)
3. The warranty card stub will serve as the official raffle stub. To qualify for the raffle, simply fill up completely the whole warranty card with your name, address, telephone number (if any) and signature. Tear the other half of the warranty card, which will serve as the raffle entry and mail this to Canon Marketing Philippines Main Office at Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City. The remaining half of the warranty card will serve as Customer's raffle stub and proof for redemption of prize.
4. Deadline for mailing of entries is on July 31, 2005 at 6:00PM. Raffle draw will be on August 15, 2005 at 2pm at the Canon Marketing Philippines Main Office at Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City, under the presence of a DTI representative.
5. All purchases made from June 6 to July 31, 2005 are eligible to join the raffle promotion.
6. Employees of Canon Marketing Philippines, Dentsu Philippines Inc. and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
7. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
8. Winners will shoulder the required 20% tax for prizes that exceed Php10,000.00
9. Winners can only win once during the entire duration of the promo. He/She will get the prize of bigger value.
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For the raffle promo, the redemption period will be within 60 days from receipt of notification letter. For the premium item, redemption period shall be within 60 days from end of promo period.
11. To claim prize, winners must present the remaining half of the warranty card, a valid ID and the registered notice. In the event that the winner cannot present the warranty card, the winner can still claim his prize upon presentation of a valid ID and the registered notice. In the case of a provincial winner, he/she can claim the prize at the nearest Canon branch/dealer.
12. Premium items can be claimed on or a day after purchase at the dealer and reseller store where the product was purchased.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 1504 Series of 2005.

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SMC to tap Australian fund to complete NatFoods takeover

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

SAN MIGUEL Corp., Southeast Asia's largest food and beverage firm, plans to tap into a A$200-million debt facility to complete its takeover of Australian dairy giant National Foods Ltd., INQUIRER sources said.

SAN MIGUEL CORPORATION

Sources said SMC would use the fund to acquire the remaining shares in NatFoods.

The takeover of National Foods is SMC's largest investment this year, and was seen strengthening SMC's foothold in the fast-growing food and beverage market in Asia-Pacific.

SMC has gained 96 percent of NatFoods, but it still has to make a "compulsory offer" to buy the remaining shares of those who did not accept its offer of A$6.40 a share.

In a bidding war launched late last year, SMC's A$1.9-billion offer (roughly $1.5 billion) beat that of its closest rival, New Zealand's Fonterra Cooperative Group.

SMC had said it would fund its proposed acquisition of NatFoods through a combination of debt and cash on hand.

It has received debt offers worth $1.1 billion from ABN AMRO Bank N.V, Barclays Capital (the investment banking division of Barclays Bank PLC), HSBC Ltd., Standard Chartered Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

Further beefing up its war chest is SMC's P17.8-billion stock rights offer completed in April this year.

NatFoods shares were taken off the Australian Stock Exchange last June 22 following SMC's acquisition.

Five non-executive directors have also retired from the company's board.

Still in the NatFoods board are director Peter Margin, SMC president Ramon Ang and San Miguel Foods and Beverage International Ltd. president Enrique Gomez.

Sources added that it has yet to be known whether SMC will create a holding company for National Foods.

The vehicle it used to acquire the dairy firm was San Miguel Foods Australia Holdings.

SMC, which generated revenues of A$4.2 billion in 2004, launched a takeover bid for NatFoods late last year.

The company has two other businesses in Australia, premium brewer J. Boag and Son, a wholly-owned subsidiary, and leading fruit juice company Berri, Ltd., where it has a majority stake.

G & W Club Shares

SEC License Broker #007575 * As of June 27, 2005

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club "A" (Filipino)	1,050,000	-
Alabang Country Club "B" (Foreigner)	Please Call	-
Baguio Country Club	550,000	520,000
Calatagan Golf Club "A"	40,000	-
Calatagan Golf Club "B"	70,000	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canlubang	500,000	450,000
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	70,000
Cebu Country Club	1,500,000	-
Celebrity Sports Club	120,000	100,000
Club Filipino	110,000	100,000
Eagleridge "A"	190,000	-
Eagleridge "B"	290,000	-
Eagleridge "C"*	200,000	250,000
Forest Hills "A"	130,000	100,000
Forest Hills "B"	230,000	180,000
Forest Hills "C"	230,000	-
Makati Sports Club "A"	200,000	170,000
Makati Sports Club "B"	250,000	-
Manila Golf (Corporate)	11,500,000	11,000,000
Manila Golf (Individual)	-	11,000,000
Manila Polo	2,200,000	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods "A"	400,000	300,000
Manila Southwoods "B"	700,000	680,000
Manila Yacht Club	-	300,000
Metroclub "A"	130,000	-
Mimosa (Individual)	-	130,000
Mimosa (Corporate)	-	275,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "A"	250,000	180,000
Mt. Malarayat Gold "C"	300,000	180,000
Orchard Golf Club "A"	170,000	-
Orchard Golf Club "C"	350,000	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Spa & Lodge	600,000	500,000
Sta. Elena "A"	1,275,000	1,100,000
Sta. Elena "B"	1,500,000	1,350,000
Subic Bay Yacht (Corporate)	170,000	-
Subic Bay Yacht (Individual)	100,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	660,000	620,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Valle Verde (Individual)	120,000	-
Valle Verde (Corporate)	200,000	-
Valley Golf	240,000	200,000
Wack-Wack Golf Club	6,500,000	6,300,000

*PLAYING RIGHTS ALSO AVAILABLE

For more information, please call:
Tel.no. 840-1761 (Fax 894-3021 (Mobile 0927-8765673
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SHARES AVAILABLE

CLUB	SELLER	BUYER
Alabang Country Club A/B*	1,100,000	1,000,000
Alta Vista Corp.	-	300,000
Baguio Country Club	Pls. Call	530,000
Calatagan Golf	40,000	-
Camp John Hay	180,000	-
Canyon Woods	125,000	-
Capitol Hills	90,000	-
Cebu Country Club	1,400,000	-
Celebrity Sports	120,000	100,000
City Sports Club Cebu	Pls. Call	-
Club Filipino	120,000	-
Club Filipino De Cebu	-	150,000
Eagleridge A/B*/C**	200,000/250,000*/Pls. Call**	Pls. Call
Eastridge A/B*	Pls. Call	-
Evergreat	70,000	-
Forest Hills A/B*/C**	130,000/200,000*	-
Luisita Golf	350,000	-
Manila Golf Corporate	11,500,000	-
Manila Golf Individual	11,400,000	-
Manila Polo	-	2,100,000
Manila Southwoods A/B*	400,000	370,000/650,000*
Makati Sports Club	200,000	190,000
Metropolitan Club A/B*	120,000/150,000*	-
Mimosa C2/C3*	Pls. Call	Pls. Call
Mt. Malarayat A	230,000	180,000
Orchard A/B*/C**	170,000/320,000*	150,000/250,000*
Puerto Azul	80,000	-
Punta Fuego	Pls. Call	-
Quezon City Sports Club	150,000	130,000
Riviera Golf A/B*/C**	90,000/180,000*/230,000**	180,000**
Riviera Sports	45,000	-
Rockwell Leisure Club	280,000	-
Royale Tagaytay CC	80,000	-
Sherwood A/C**	70,000/160,000**	-
Sta. Elena Golf A/B*	1,300,000/1,600,000*	1,100,000
The Palms Country Club	550,000	-
Tagaytay Country Club	380,000	350,000
Tagaytay Highlands	730,000	650,000
Tagaytay Midlands	680,000	650,000
The Country Club	2,000,000	-
Tower Club	Pls. Call	-
Valley Golf	240,000	-
Valle Verde Ind.	120,000	-
Wack Wack Golf	6,500,000	-

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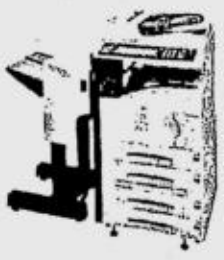

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PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of June 24, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	30.5	31	30.5	31	1,445,100
Bank of the Phil. Islands	50	50	49	49.5	620,100
China Banking Corp.	770	770	770	770	50
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	1,000
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.57	0.57	110,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	49.5	50	49.5	50	19,800
International Exch. Bank	19	19	19	19	4,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	30	30	29.5	29.5	561,300
Philippine National Bank	42	42	42	42	22,900
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	20,000
Security Bank Corp.	25	25	25	25	97,100
Union Bank of the Phil.	28.5	29	28.5	29	50,200
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Manulife Financial Corp.	2680	2680	2680	2680	250
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	62,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	142	142	142	142	10,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	1835	1850	1835	1845	2,810
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.25	11.5	11.25	11.25	60,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.06	1.08	1.06	1.08	668,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	805	795	805	55,300
Ipeople Inc.	3.8	3.95	3.8	3.9	183,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	500,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.049	0.05	900,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,406,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1620	1635	1615	1630	266,590
Ivantage Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Philweb Corp.	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	10,700,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	15.25	15.25	15.25	15.25	4,600
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.5	100,300
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.5	6.6	6.5	6.6	929,000
Petron Corp.	3.05	3.1	3	3	5,066,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.96	1.96	1.94	1.94	80,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	14,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.48	1.6	1.48	1.6	51,000
Aboitiz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	7,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	7.4	7.4	7.4	7.4	275,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	100,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.59	0.59	0.55	0.55	490,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3.2	3.3	3.2	3.3	178,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	900
Jollibee Foods Corp.	29	29	29	29	105,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	30,000
San Miguel Corp. A	58	58.5	58	58.5	46,000
San Miguel Corp. B	92	92	92	92	65,000
Universal Robina Corp.	16.75	16.75	16	16.5	437,500
Vitarich Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	200,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Alco-Blg Wedge Co. Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	4,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.009	0.0085	0.009	23,000,000
Ayala Corp.	330	330	325	327.5	48,920
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.47	0.51	0.47	0.5	2,250,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.8	1,294,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	100,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2	2	1.96	2	382,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.25	80,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.62	0.65	0.6	0.6	1,140,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.06	1.04	1.04	3,865,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	70,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.2	400,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	990,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.6	2.65	2.55	2.55	2,598,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	2,800,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	200,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	7.8	7.8	7.5	7.5	979,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46.5	46.5	45.5	45.5	188,900
Forum Pacific Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	300,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	1,500,000
Ionics Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	1,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.7	3.75	3.7	3.7	663,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	500,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.42	1.38	1.42	2,098,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.36	0.37	0.36	0.37	2,810,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.225	410,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.99	0.99	0.99	0.99	50,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	200,000
SM Investments Corp.	252.5	255	252.5	255	216,490
South China Resources Inc.	0.65	0.65	0.64	0.64	150,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.175	0.175	2,660,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	4,150,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	40,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	624,000
Manila Jockey Club	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	45,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	100,000
Philippine Racing Club	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	6,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (PDR)	11	11	10.75	10.75	310,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
OTHERS					
Centro Escolar University	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	5,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.1	8.1	7.9	8	31,238,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	10,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	260,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	1,700,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	3,960,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.46	1.48	1.42	1.44	8,407,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.22	2.22	2.2	2.2	110,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	160,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	70,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.55	4.55	4.55	4.55	2,000
Phil Realty And Holdings	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.6	7.5	7.6	5,738,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.4	5.6	5.3	5.5	1,108,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	3,700,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.37	0.37	0.36	0.37	6,130,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.016	0.016	0.016	63,800,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.021	0.021	0.021	0.021	115,600,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	1,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.94	0.94	0.92	0.93	1,110,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.06	1.06	1.02	1.02	1,978,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	29	29	28	28	656,300
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	2,150,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	10,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	40,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,800,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	550,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.35	0.37	0.34	0.35	1,020,000

CURRENCIES

June 24, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.824334	1.000000	55.6300
Japan	Yen	0.007578	0.009193	0.5114
United Kingdom	Pound	1.502267	1.822400	101.3801
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.106106	0.128717	7.1605
Switzerland	Franc	0.648418	0.786596	43.7583
Canada	Dollar	0.667856	0.810176	45.0701
Singapore	Dollar	0.493318	0.598444	33.2914
Australia	Dollar	0.640758	0.777303	43.2414
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.186854	2.652872	147.5793
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.219817	0.266660	14.8343
Brunei	Dollar	0.491847	0.596659	33.1921
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000086	0.000104	0.0058
Thailand	Baht	0.020030	0.024298	1.3517
UAE	Dirham	0.224443	0.272272	15.1465
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.213100	67.4848
Argentina	Peso	0.287977	0.349345	19.4341
Brazil	Real	0.347454	0.421496	23.4478
Denmark	Kroner	0.134274	0.162888	9.0615
India	Rupee	0.018972	0.023015	1.2803
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216959	0.263193	14.6414
Mexico	New Peso	0.076600	0.092924	5.1694
New Zealand	Dollar	0.589315	0.714898	39.7698
Norway	Kroner	0.126910	0.153955	8.5645
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013806	0.016748	0.9317
South Africa	Rand	0.122532	0.148644	8.2691
Korea	Won	0.000816	0.000990	0.0551
Sweden	Kroner	0.107153	0.129987	7.2312
Syria	Pound	0.015880	0.019264	1.0717
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.026282	0.031883	1.7737
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000384	0.000466	0.0259

Volatile trading seen

From page B1

ties Analysts of the Phillipines (ASAP), said the group was pleased "that the President has chosen the high ground in maintaining her focus on the economic agenda rather than fall into the trap of charges and counter charges, which will distract her from her economic program."

"ASAP believes that the way the issues have been handled by both sides (opposition and government) to date has contributed to the climate of uncertainty pervading in the capital markets," Del Castillo said.

BPI Trade warned in its weekly market report that "investors are concerned that the political bickering will erode the economic gains the country has achieved and that it may deter new investments from coming to the country."

BPI Trade also said the rise of crude oil prices to new highs at $60 a barrel spooked investors.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Bayantel may lose frequencies

By Clarissa S. Batino

BAYAN Telecommunications Phils. Inc. and its subsidiary, Express Telecommunications Inc., may soon lose their mobile phone frequencies, according to the National Telecommunications Commission.

NTC chair Ronald Solis said that the NTC may recall idle frequencies once active wireless carriers require additional space for their expansion.

"As the custodian of the frequencies, we want this scarce resource to be fully maximized. If unused, then we can initiate recall procedures which would have to go through a public hearing," said Solis.

Solis added that the NTC was making available under the third-generation or 3G wireless operations some of the frequencies allocated for Extelcom and Pilipino Telephone Corp.

Frequency bands under the 800 megahertz issued by the NTC to Extelcom and Piltel were identified by the International Telecommunications Union as suitable for 3G.

The NTC is bidding out only five 3G frequency bands this year.

3G is the new generation of mobile operations that allows faster downloading of data, allowing people to see each other while talking on their mobile phone.

The Philippines is still using the second-generation technology of mobile phones.

"In the case of Piltel and Extelcom, we are making available the 800 bandwidth for 3G, which means they could upgrade to 3G if they are qualified," said Solis.

"If they qualify, they can use the frequencies. But if they don't, then we can recall it," the NTC chief added.

In the case of idle wireless operators like Extelcom and Bayantel, Solis said that the NTC could also recall their frequencies once the Commission would get new requests for additional spectrum.

The NTC had awarded all the available spectrum for 2G operations.

The last 5 megahertz was split between Smart Communications Inc. and Digital Telecommunications Phils. Inc.

While it has the license to go into cellular operations, Bayantel had not expanded into the mobile business.

Its subsidiary, Extelcom, had been inactive with less than 200,000 subscribers.

Extelcom has 20 megahertz under the 800 band, while Bayantel has 10 megahertz each on the 1700 and 1800 bands.

Solis said the provisional authority issued to telcos provide a timetable under which they should complete their network roll-out.

Failure means their right to the assigned frequencies could be recalled by the government.

If the takeover of a certain frequency won't be contested by the other party, then the carriers need only to discuss the terms of transfer, including the fees.

The outgoing operator has to be compensated, according to Solis, because that carrier already paid spectrum users' fee to the NTC.

The 3G would use a higher frequency, which would also make it more expensive to operate.

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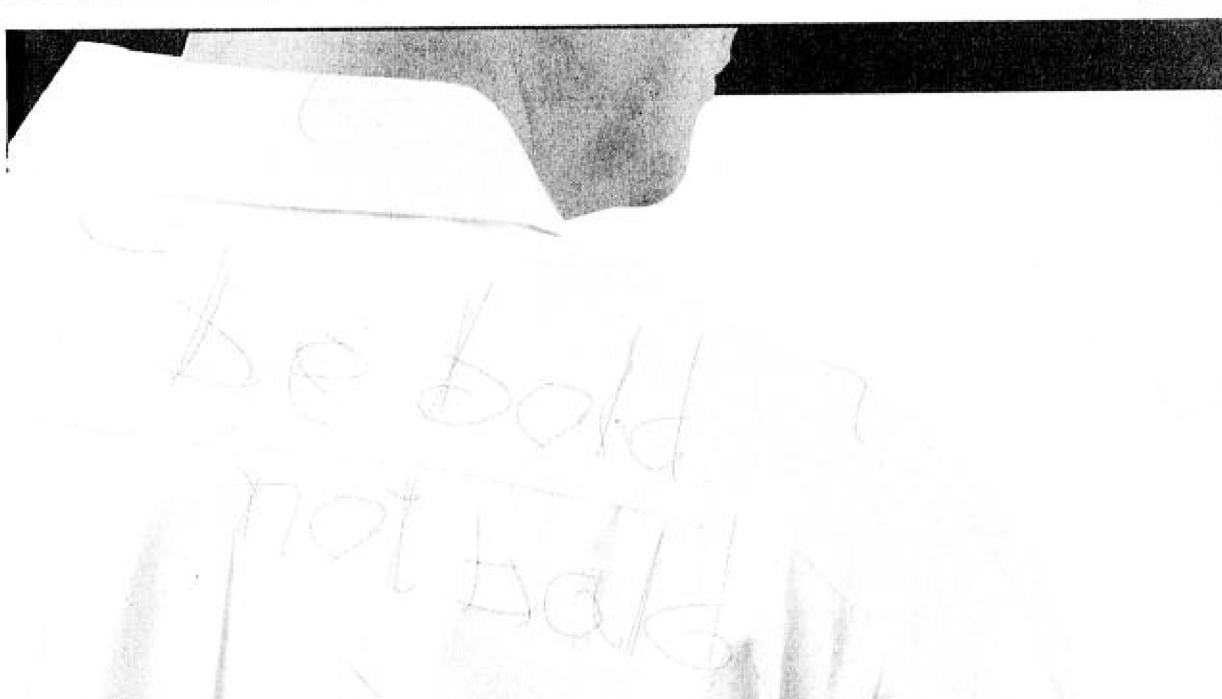

You can turn your back on MPHL or Male Pattern Hair Loss. It is caused by increased levels of DHT (dihydrotestosterone) in the scalp.[1] MPHL is characterized by loss of visible hair over certain areas of your scalp.[2] Chances are it will get worse as time goes by if left untreated[2], unless you will be bold enough to do something about MPHL. Research indicates that seeking early medical treatment can slow down hair loss and in some cases hair can even be regrown.[1]

Ask your dermatologist about ways with which you can fight male pattern hair loss.

Now MPHL will not be a burden on your shoulders anymore. You just have to be bold, so you don't have to be bald.

you can reverse male pattern hair loss.[1,*]

For more information on the ProHAIR program call hotline number 878-6338. You may also send inquiries to fax no. 813-1172 or email: inquire@prohair-info.com

ProHAIR is a Healthcare Information Program of MSD in cooperation with the Philippine Dermatological Society

ProHAIR

Reference: 1. Libecco J. Expert Opin Pharmacother 2004; 5(4): 933-940
2. Kaufman K. Eur J Dermatol 2002 12:38-49

* In studies, hair has been regrown in MPHL patients, but individual results may vary from patient to patient.
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L.A. 120sqm (VARIOUS)
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UCPB - RSDL IMPVMNT
L.A. 310.50sqm
139 Gen. Pio Valenzuela St.
Kaloocan
Min. Bid Price: P 3,440,000

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L.A. 650sqm
86 & 88 A. Del Mundo St.
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Min. Bid Price: P 9,010,000

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UCPB - CONDO UNIT w/ Parking
L.A. 148sqm
8Rr Ocean Tower Bldg.
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UCPB - COMML LOT
L.A. 832.7sqm
No.2244 Taft Avenue, Malate
Min. Bid Price: P24,142,000

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UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 67.90sqm
204 Bormoheco Condo cor.
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UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 60.07sqm
1008 Le Domain Tordesillas St.
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UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A.129.62sqm
Unit No.305 3rd Floor Ciano
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L.A. 478sqm
Kalayaan Corner Kawit St.
Sta. Cruz Makati
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UCPB - TOWN HOUSE
L.A 210.79sqm
Unit 201 Makati Prime City
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Min. Bid Price: P 4,800,000

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UCPB 525 - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 312sqm w/ 2-STOREY
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F.A. 125sqm
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Min. Bid Price:P 2,599,000

UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 140.86sqm
Court Felicidad I,
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Min. Bid Price: P 3,480,000

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L.A. 100sqm
Dao St. Marikina Heights
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UCPB - 2 STORY RSDL BLDG
L.A. 113.33sqm
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UCPB - RSDL W/ IMPRVMNT
L.A. 140sqm
324 San Bartolome St.,
San Antonio Valley
Min. Bid Price: P 980,000

UCPB - CAVANT LOT
L.A. 1,671sqm
8472 East Service Rd.
San Martin De Porres
Min. Bid Price: P37,310,000

UCPB 631- CONDO UNIT W/ PARKING
F.A. 144.70sqm
Unit 908 9th flr., Chateau de Baie
Condo.
Min. Bid Price: P3,220,000

UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 553.45sqm
20-A Jose Abad Santos,
Bayview Village,
Min. Bid Price: P 6,376,000

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UCPB - TOWN HOUSE
F.A. 57sqm
Amelor Townhomes,
Esteban Abada
Min. Bid Price: P 1,600,000

UCPB - TOWN HOUSE
F.A. 64.50sqm
Amelor Townhomes,
Esteban Abada
Min. Bid Price: P 1,940,000

UCPB - TOWN HOUSE
L.A. 98sqm
114 Regency Park, Santolan Rd.
Min. Bid Price: P 4,700,000

UCPB - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 359.30sqm
#60 Kalayaa St. Talalon
Min. Bid Price: P 4,730,000

UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A. 245sqm
#18 Batangas St.
San Francisco Del Monte
Min. Bid Price: P 3,700,000

UCPB - RSDL W/ IMPRVMT
L.A. 80sqm
Jade St., Silverland Subd.
Tandang Sora
Min. Bid Price: P 2,043,000

UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A. 245sqm
#10 Alley 4 cor. Alley 2 Project 6
Min. Bid Price: P 1,960,000

UCPB - RSDL W/IMPRVMT
L.A. 208.10sqm
52-C, J Ocampo St. Proj.4
Min. Bid Price: P 1,950,000

UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 141sqm
8 Maestranza St.
New Intramuros Village
Min. Bid Price: P 3,734,000

UCPB - RSDL BLDG
L.A. 540sqm
L6 B2 Richland St, Richland 5
Subd., Sauyo
Min. Bid Price: P 2,704,000

UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A. 181.5sqm
No. Agoo Street,
New Haven Subd.,
Min. Bid Price: P 860,000

UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 281sqm
Bighani cor.
Flores de Mayo St.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,600,000

UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 85.46sqm (VARIOUS)
Jade Place Condo,
Visayas Avenue
Min. Bid Price: P 2,240,000

UCPB - CONDO UNIT
F.A. 62.90sqm
Adelina 2, Condominium
Columbia
Min. Bid Price: P 1,224,000

UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A. 139sqm
Rolex St. cor. Buhusa St. Cherbel
Subd. Ph I
Min. Bid Price: P 990,000

UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 686sqm, F.A 562sqm
44 Zaragosa St.
Aranata Village
Min. Bid Price: P 6,574,750

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L.A. 155sqm
Rd. L1, Metrogreen Village,
Novaliches
Min. Bid Price: P 2,776,000

UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 103sqm
Moses St.,
Goodwill Home Ph 2.
Min. Bid Price: P 2,112,000

UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A. 561sqm
Cynthia St.,
Doña Carmen Subd.
Min. Bid Price: P 1,384,000

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L.A. 832sqm
#8 Red Palm St.,
Valle Verde IV
Min. Bid Price: P22,460,000

UCPB - CONDO UNIT
L.A. 215.2sqm
Renaissance 3000
Min. Bid Price: P 8,310,000

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UCPB - HOUSE & LOT
L.A. 926sqm
31 cor. Madison & Polk St.
North Greenhills
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UCPB - CONDO UNIT
L.A. 180sqm
Unit 14B One Beverly Place
Condo
Min. Bid Price: P 5,120,000

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UCPB - RSDL LOT
L.A 39.50sqm
A. Bonifacio St. San Juan
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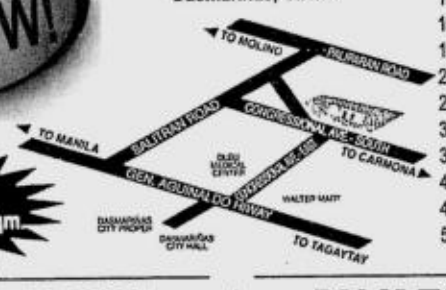

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287sqm	P 574,000.00
334sqm	P 635,000.00
400sqm	P 680,000.00
528sqm	P 1,003,000.00

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Lipa, Batangas

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IF YOU own a motor vehicle, you're familiar with that annual ritual you need to go through at the Land Transportation Office (LTO) to renew its registration. And you know about the compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurance that you have to purchase before you submit your registration renewal papers. This is the insurance that covers costs suffered by a third party due to death or bodily injuries when your vehicle is involved in an accident. This is just one among several forms of "public liability coverage" required by our laws for things like operating a private or a public utility vehicle (whether for land, water or air transport), obtaining a local business license, storing goods in a bonded warehouse, and so on. These requirements are mostly embodied in the Insurance Code (PD 1460, as amended by PD 1814); that for registering a local business is provided for in the Local Government Code (RA 7160).

Fly-by-night

The problem with many of these compulsory public liability coverage instruments is that we are often unsure whether the insurance we are buying is true insurance. In the case of motor vehicle registration, the Insurance Code requires land transport operators and private vehicle owners to obtain insurance coverage amounting to not less than P50,000. For land transport operators, coverage for each passenger or third party of no less than P12,000 each is also required.

It is no secret that many of those selling CTPL coverage especially in the vicinity of LTO branches are really just selling you that piece of paper called the Certificate of Cover (COC), which must accompany your application for renewal of your vehicle's registration. Try making a claim when your vehicle meets an accident, and the insurance agent either gives you the runaround, or the insurance company proves to be non-existent.

Willing victims

The problem is, many who come to the LTO to register their vehicles probably don't even care that they're buying fake insurance coverage. Many a motorist comes to the LTO unprepared, i.e. without having purchased CTPL coverage from a known and trusted insurer beforehand, and often they come right on the deadline for their vehicle's registration renewal. Their main concern is to get the paperwork over with as soon as possible, within the same visit. And given the way most LTO branches are teeming with pushy fixers (you'd think the prominent signs telling the public not to deal with them would keep them away) and crowded with harassed applicants, anyone would want to get out of the place as quickly as he/she can! Thus they are prepared to shell out a few hundred pesos just to get the needed COC, never mind that it may not come with genuine insurance coverage behind it.

It is this situation that is exploited by the fly-by-night operators. But what is worse is that there have been allegations that LTO officials themselves have been in cahoots with (if not the actual owners of) these fake insurers. Considering the volume of applicants who come on any given day, there must be a great deal of money being made here. (There's also the P300 emissions test, and for driver's license renewal applicants, the P250 "drug test" and the P50 "medical exam" which is nothing more than a cursory eyesight test—clearly lucrative side industries arising from the LTO processes as well—but these are beyond the scope of our topic here.)

Massive tax losses

It is not only the public that is hurt by fake CTPL insurance policies, through accident claims that are never paid. The government is also deprived of substantial revenues that could have been made if all insurance policies issued were legitimate. Data from the Insurance Commission (IC) indicate how massive (and how lucrative) the fake CTPL insurance business has been. In 2003 alone, there were about 4.3 million vehicles registered. Considering the average premiums paid per vehicle, the IC estimates that insurance premium collections should have amounted to P2.6 billion, with a corresponding tax due to government of P579 million (at 22.5 percent of premiums).

But actual premium collections reported by the insurance companies only amounted to P1.38 billion, or just over half of what is collectible—which means that almost half of the CTPL insurance issued to registered vehicles was unreported, and presumably fake! The corresponding taxes paid on these reported premiums must have been about P311 million (i.e. 22.5 percent of P1.38 billion), out of the potential P579 million—or a revenue loss of P268 million in 2004 alone. Thus, over the years, the government has been losing billions of pesos in foregone revenues from fake CTPL insurance policies—hardly a comforting thought in this time of fiscal crisis.

Beyond LTO

The recent shift to three-year registration terms for brand new motor vehicles—thereby requiring three-year insurance coverage as well—can only potentially increase the irregularities, unless the government can move to effectively curb fake insurance policies. And as indicated above, LTO registration is just one instance where this must be happening. Similar irregularities must be happening with third party liability insurance purchased by businesses as a requirement for business permits with local governments, as with still other forms of public liability coverage required by our laws for various transactions. It seems that wherever you look, crooks manage to find an opportunity for defrauding the public and the government, and make huge amounts of illicit income. One can only wish that everyone made money the old-fashioned way: by earning it. *Comments welcome at chabito@ateneo.edu*

Ailing Makati Med looks . . .

From page B1

lion in 2004 out of P2.6 billion in revenues. But costs and expenses, according to the sources, were staggering.

Pangilinan, according to another source, was being discouraged by his advisers from taking the Makati Med post.

Pangilinan is recognized as an astute businessman. He may have put a lot of money into charitable organizations but he would not plunge "into something with problems as complex" as Makati Med's, said the source.

Makati Med was founded in the 1960s by Dr. Constantino P. Manahan, Dr. Jose Y. Fores, Dr. Mariano M. Alimurung, Dr. Carlos L. Sevilla and Luis Ma. Araneta, Romeo Gustilo, Manuel Fernandez Sr., Jorge Araneta, Raul Fores, Julieta Ledesma and Daniel Go. Of the six, only Daniel Go is not a member of the board.

Other Makati Med directors are Amando Eduque, lawyer Constantino Manahan, Ashok K. Nath, Vicente Q. Arguelles and Dr. Edmundo V. Villacorta.

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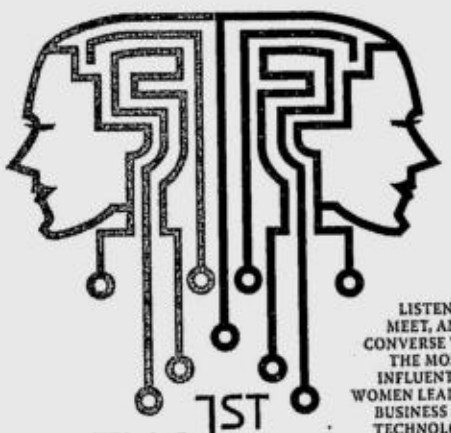

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UNDERSERVED MARKET

Innove targets SMEs to boost fixed line business

By Abigail L. Ho

CEBU CITY, Cebu—After recently being granted the authority to become the country's second nationwide fixed line service provider, Innove Communications Inc. in now targeting small and medium enterprises to grow its business.

Undaunted by the huge lead of dominant player Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., Innove network management head Ramon Aesquivel said much of the SME market remained underserved in terms of services that could be bundled with the basic fixed line.

"There's still a lot of demand. The SME market will be a main target as there are still a lot of services that can be provided for that sector," he said in a recent briefing.

Asked whether Innove would be focusing more on untapped markets or the existing subscribers of other landline providers, he said the telecom firm would be targeting both.

According to data from the National Telecommunications Commission, there are more than 3.4 million landline subscribers all over the country. Total installed lines, however, was placed at around 6 million.

PLDT is the dominant player in the market, with over 2 million landline subscribers.

Lopez-led Bayan Telecommunications Inc. has another 300,000 as of end-2004, while Innove has 341,877 subscribers at the end of the first quarter this year.

The NTC more than a week ago approved Innove's application to install telephone lines all over the country, despite stiff opposition from other carriers.

In an earlier statement, Innove said it would roll out an initial 145,000 lines in the National Capital Region, Cordillera Administrative Region, and in regions 1-5 and 9-11 at a cost of around P5 billion.

The firm noted that the penetration rate was still low, with only about 1.29 phones for every 100 residents in Region 9. Metro Manila has the highest phone penetration with 22 lines for every 100 residents.

The additional rollout was seen generating P331 million in revenues for the first year alone, jumping to P1.5 billion by the fifth year and P1.8 billion by the eighth year.

On the other hand, operating expenses for the added landlines would likely hit P184 million in the first year, climbing to P577 million in the fifth year and P677 million in the 10th year.

Before being allowed to go nationwide, Innove's service area only covered Makati, Mandaluyong, Marikina, Pasig and San Juan in Metro Manila, as well as Batangas, Cavite, Mindoro Oriental, Palawan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, North Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat and Maguindanao, plus some operations in regions 6-8.

The NTC had yet to grant Innove with a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) to establish, install, operate and maintain a nationwide local exchange carrier service.

Innove, however, was given an 18-month provisional authority to conduct a nationwide rollout prior to the issuance of the CPCN.

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ARMM... business, jobs and peace

MINDANAWORLD

Joji Ilagan-Bian

ENHANCING the region's business climate for better economic growth will be the main thrust of the 4th Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) Business Congress slated June 28 to 29, 2005 in Bongao, Tawi-Tawi.

Some 400 key business leaders, ARMM businessmen, government officials and nongovernment organization representatives will convene to discuss vital issues that affect the conduct of business and investment in the region.

ARMM is composed of five provinces and one city: Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Marawi City.

Basilan has a population of 270,000 and the capital city is Isabela. However, Isabela City is independent of the province; because in the recent plebiscite, it was only the residents of Basilan who opted to join ARMM, with the exception of Isabela City.

Lanao del Sur has one of the largest populations, together with Maguindanao, with over 800,000 people.

Found in the interior of Lanao del Sur is Lanao Lake, the largest lake in Mindanao. Sulu is an island province and is home to the Royal Sultanate of Sulu and has a population of 620,000.

Marawi City is a major city of the Philippines and it is one of the educational centers of Mindanao, since the Mindanao State University is located here.

Investment destination

Promoting ARMM, particularly Tawi-Tawi, as an investment destination will be among the objectives of this year's business gathering.

Altab Tulawie, Regional Board of Investments (RBOI) chair in the ARMM said that the region benefited from more than P8.8 billion worth of investments in 2003.

He added that more than 10 existing firms have also expanded their operations in the region. Fruits, seaweed, cassava, coconut and rubber are the major products of ARMM.

Two years ago, I was in Bongao upon the invitation of my very good friend, Dr. Romy Taup, a former Regional Governor of the Phil. Chamber of Commerce (PCCI).

Together with the Tawi-Tawi Chamber of Commerce, they made my visit so unforgettable. They fed me with the best crabs, shrimps, lobsters and the freshest lapu-lapu one can have.

They gave me boxes of salted lapu-lapu to bring home. And all I did to deserve such a feast and gifts was to speak for 30 minutes on the importance of transparency in governance!

You see, much of Tawi-Tawi's resources come from the sea; from the rich fishing grounds to wonderful scenes of white sand beaches and vibrant coral reefs.

It has an airport, and Bongao's horseshoe-shaped seaport is said to be the busiest in the Sulu archipelago.

Its major products are fish and processed shell products, seaweeds, coconut, corn, *palay* and rootcrops.

The Tawi-Tawi Chamber is also one of PCCI's pilot chambers currently doing projects in population management as part of their corporate social responsibility, under the chairmanship of Dr. Gay Hadjirul and Dr. Jaimal Hamad.

I can still remember PCCI president Donald Dee telling me that he was so glad that a Muslim Chamber in the ARMM is actively committed to the population advocacy of PCCI.

ARMM Business Conference

"It's about time that we join the other provinces in moving towards economic progress. If we have a flourishing business sector, we can create more jobs and gradually eliminate poverty. We are proud to say that we are a peaceful region, and there are numerous business opportunities that await entrepreneurs in the ARMM," stressed Datu Haron Bandila, ARMM Business Council chair.

He also indicated that the business sector in the ARMM wants the national government to address the power issue turning off investors.

Plenary sessions on transport infrastructure, educational reforms, telecommunications, seaweed production and marketing, governance and cross-border trading, as well as investment incentives in ARMM will be conducted during the two-day activity.

The assembly will also signify the business community's call for a stronger campaign against corruption, as it launches the creation of an anticorruption body to implement a tough anticorruption program.

To strengthen domestic and cross border trading, a trade fair exhibit as well as business matching sessions will be held. Exhibitors from Malaysia, Indonesia and other Asean countries will be present.

Let us all go and join the business momentum in Tawi-Tawi! Let us all go and support ARMM! Investing in ARMM is investing in peace and development!

(Joji Ilagan-Bian is a strong advocate for Mindanao; vice chair of the Mindanao Commission of Women and National Corn Board; chair of the Mindanao TVET; member, Export Development Council and former chair of the Mindanao Business Council. Email comments to jojibian2@yahoo.com)

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For RP, 1% hike in global rates seen to cost $225M

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PHILIPPINES' foreign debt burden rises by around $225 million for every one percentage increase in global interest rates, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas estimated.

The country's external debt stock amounted to $55.3 billion as of end-March, 2.4 percent lower than the $56.7 billion posted in the same period last year.

"If you look at the maturity profile, out of the total debt stock, 90 percent is in medium to long term loans ... about $49.8 billion," said Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP officer-in-charge.

Out of the total MLT loans, he noted that 3.4 percent was carrying variable interest rates, which meant this was the portion affected by a 100-basis point rise in interest rates.

"The impact is thus $170 million (increase in interest servicing) on MLT loans, and $55 million on short-term loans ... a total of about $225 million for one percentage change," Tetangco said.

London-based credit rating agency Fitch Ratings said most emerging economies, including the Philippines, were anchored on firmer ground against continuing risks of a "hard landing" by the US economy.

Such a "doomsday" scenario refers to a sharper and less benign correction of global imbalances caused by the twin current account and budget deficits of the US, resulting in an unanticipated rise in its policy interest rates, lower global growth as well as a weaker US dollar.

In its June commentary on sovereigns, Fitch said its overall assessment was that emerging markets as a whole were relatively "well-placed" to absorb the risks posed by the growing global imbalances.

But Fitch warned that the recent surge in international borrowing by emerging markets' banks and corporates ran the risk of amplifying the impact of a severe downturn in the global economy.

It noted that expectations of higher US interest rates had already widened spreads across emerging markets in the first five months of this year, with Indonesia, the Philippines and Venezuela all having to accept higher yields on new borrowings.

Still, Fitch said emerging markets had become increasingly skillful at exploiting market opportunities, allowing them to refinance existing debt on more favorable terms and to extend maturities at low interest rates.

"The Philippines, for example, now boasts of average external debt maturities of 10 years," Fitch said. "Better debt management ... should ensure that any sudden deterioration in market sentiment takes longer to feed through to overall debt service costs."

Foreign chambers to press for amendments to Epira

VARIOUS foreign chambers may submit a formal position calling for the amendment of certain provisions of RA 9136, or the Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001 (Epira).

A source from the energy sector said one particular provision that the foreign chambers were eyeing was Section 45b, which dealt with distribution utilities that had generation companies for sister firms.

Under that particular provision, distribution utilities can source up to 50 percent of their requirements from the sister firms that are engaged in power generation.

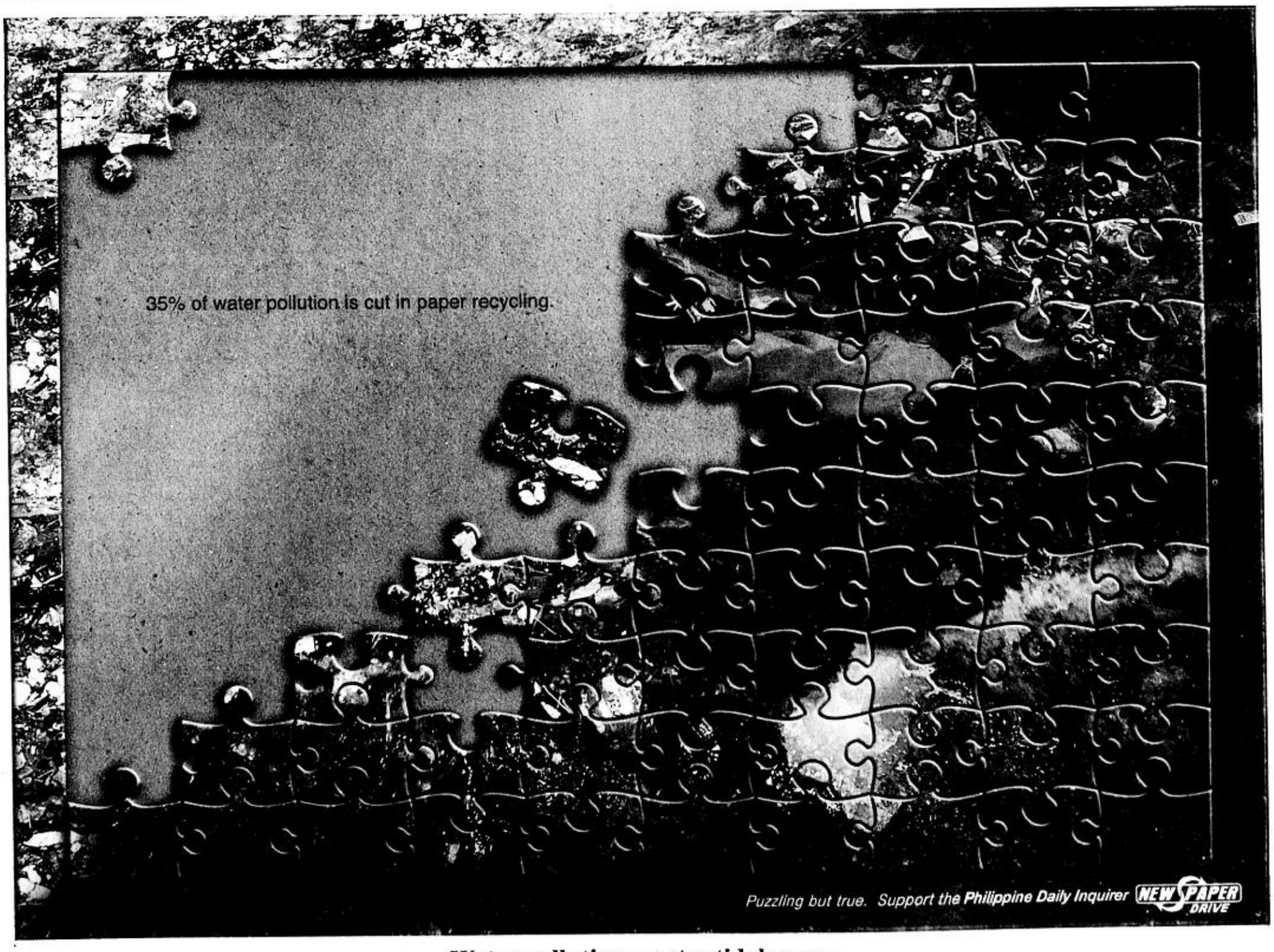
The source had earlier said that this specific provision gave distribution giants like the Lopez-led Manila Electric Co. more reason to dominate the market and keep all the cash within its coffers.

"As a result, it's hard for other investors to get (power purchase agreements) with Meralco," the source said.

He said this added uncertainty to investing in the country's power sector as potential investors might think they would have a difficult time getting contracts with big power distributors that had affiliates in the generation sector.

Meralco currently sources around 30 percent of its supply requirements from two Lopez-led natural gas plants: the 1,000-MW Sta. Rita plant, and the 500-MW San Lorenzo plant, both in Batangas. The plants are under the First Gas Power Corp.

In defense of the said provision, another source explained that Meralco's agreement with First Gas was not put in place by virtue of their being sister firms, but because First Gas offered "the most competitive price." *Abigail L. Ho*



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LINIS-GANDA

Mindanao power firm seeks funding for 20-MW coal plant construction

By Abigail L. Ho

POWER generation firm Mindanao Energy Systems Inc. (Minergy) is seeking funding for the construction of a 20-MW coal-fired power plant to augment the power supply in Mindanao.

The proposed plant may cost around $600,000 per megawatt (MW) to build, according to Minergy.

The company wants to rush the construction of the 20-MW plant to stave off the power shortage in Mindanao, which is said to occur in 2007, said Ramon Abaya, chair of Minergy sister firm Cagayan de Oro Power and Light Co.

But Minergy has yet to secure the approval of the Energy Regulatory Board for the proposed power facility. There are also no funds for the project as yet.

"There's no funding yet, but we may talk to some local lenders for funding of around $600,000 per MW as prices have gone down a bit to only a little over half (the usual price)," Abaya said.

Previously, it took around $1 million to install 1 MW of capacity.

Abaya stressed the urgency of the project as the Mindanao grid was currently "on crisis mode."

"There are not enough reserves," he said. "This is considered critical because if one of the grids suffers an outage, there will no longer be enough power."

Communities and towns across the island will then experience power outages, "probably with the exception of major cities like (those under) Cepalco and Davao Light (and Power Co.), which both have generation affiliates to rely on," Abaya added.

He said one of the reasons for the lack of supply was the delay in the transfer of power barges from the Visayas to Mindanao.

Two more barges that had been assigned to Mindanao also met with "considerable delays, making the situation even worse," Abaya said.

He said the operation of Global Steelworks International Inc., formerly the National Steel Corp., would make the Mindanao power situation even more critical.

"Everything is dependent on (National Power Corp.) plants," he explained.

Abaya had said in an earlier interview that, as early as now, the Mindanao grid was already experiencing power shortfalls, which became more pronounced during the summer months as the main grid was heavily dependent on hydroelectric facilities for its power supply.

The coal-fired power plant that Minergy planned to put up would provide additional power to the grid and help alleviate the current crisis situation, he said.

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RP card holders not at risk in US security breach

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has assured Filipino credit card holders that they are not so much at risk from the controversial credit card security breach in the United States.

The security breach has exposed over 40 million users of Visa and MasterCard across the globe to potential fraud.

Amando Tetangco Jr., BSP officer-in-charge, told reporters at the sidelines of a JP Morgan cocktail reception that the domestic impact of the security breach would be "minimal."

Tetangco said there was a procedure by which fraudulent transactions could be rectified.

"The breach was in a credit card processing center in the US, and card companies here have installed fraud detection systems," Tetangco explained.

Just in case a billing error occurs, a card holder can always contest it, he added.

Visa credit card users in the Philippines stood at about 6.1 million, while Mastercard has about 3.5 million customers.

The latest international credit card controversy erupted after a hacker reportedly gained access to a key database and installed a script that acts like a virus, searching out certain types of card transaction data.

Of the cards involved, 13.9 million were MasterCard, which include Maestro and Cirrus, and 22 million were Visa.

The breach was traced to the Tucson office of CardSystems Solutions, a company that processes transactions on behalf of merchants and financial institutions.

At least 68,000 Mastercard accounts, 100,000 Visa accounts and 30,000 accounts from other card brands are known to have been exported by the hackers. The data exported included names, card numbers and card security codes.

CardSystems held consumer credit card data by keeping a file on credit card transactions that failed to receive authorization.

Both MasterCard and Visa prohibited card processors from saving cardholder information after transactions.

Visa is now reviewing whether it would continue to work with CardSystems while MasterCard said that it is giving the company "a limited amount of time" to demonstrate compliance.

CardSystems said it had taken active measures to correct the breach, and enhanced its security procedures.

RP current account seen to remain at a surplus

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas expects the country's current account (CA) to remain at a surplus of $1.59 billion this year, less than the $2 billion it chalked up in 2004.

Global credit rating agencies like Standard & Poor's believe the CA is still one of the fundamental strengths of the Philippine economy, especially since remittances from overseas Filipino workers tend to offset swings in external trade, resulting from volatility in global demand.

BSP Assistant Governor Diwa Guinigundo said for the first quarter, the CA surplus stood at $546 million, equivalent to 2.5 percent of the gross domestic product and about four times better than the $109 million posted in the same period last year.

The strong CA position in the first quarter was fueled by higher surplus in current transfers, as well as lower deficits in trade-in-goods, services and income accounts.

The CA is a major component of the balance of payment (BOP) which, in turn, measures the foreign exchange transactions between the economy and the rest of the world.

In the BOP, any transaction which gives rise to a payment by a Philippine resident, like importation or offshore investment, is a deficit item, while any transaction which gives rise to a receipt, like exporting or inward remittance and investment, is a surplus item.

The strong CA surplus in the first quarter contributed to the BOP surplus of $783 million during the period.

For the full year, the BSP still sees the trade account incurring a deficit as the value of imports—partly caused by rising oil prices—was seen to exceed export receipts.

As reflected by data in the first three months of the year, exports of electronic products, the country's main foreign exchange earners, are also growing modestly due to the weakness in global demand which started to manifest in the latter part of 2004.

Exports earnings are projected to expand by 8 percent to $41.83 billion, while the import bill is seen to grow by 10 percent to $49.62 billion.

However, migrant remittances and current transfers are seen to contribute to the full-year CA surplus.

For this year, the BSP expects overseas income remitted through the banks to grow by 10 percent to $2.94 billion, and current transfers by overseas Filipino workers to expand by the same magnitude to hit $9.85 billion.

Doris C. Dumlao

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2. Customers can also join a raffle promo for a chance to win the following:
   - First prize – SM Gift Certificates worth Php 50,000.00 (one winner). GC is valid until August 1, 2006
   - Second prize – SM Gift Certificates worth Php 30,000.00 (one winner) GC is valid until August 1, 2006
   - Third prize – Nokia 6020 cellphone worth Php 15,000.00 (one winner)
3. The warranty card stub will serve as the official raffle stub. To qualify for the raffle, simply fill up completely the whole warranty card with your name, address, telephone number (if any) and signature. Tear the other half of the warranty card, which will serve as the raffle entry and mail this to Canon Marketing Philippines Main Office at Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City. The remaining half of the warranty card will serve as customer's raffle stub and proof for redemption of prize.
4. Deadline for mailing of entries is on July 31, 2005 at 6:00 PM. Raffle draw will be on August 15, 2005 at 2:00 PM at the Canon Marketing Philippines Main Office at Marvin Plaza, 2153 Don Chino Roces Ave., cor. V.A. Rufino St., Makati City, in the presence of a DTI representative.
5. All purchases made from June 6 to July 31, 2005 are eligible to join the raffle promotion.
6. Employees of Canon Marketing Philippines, Dentsu Philippines Inc. and participating outlets including their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promotion.
7. Prizes are transferable but not convertible to cash.
8. Winners will shoulder the required 20% tax for prizes that exceed Php10,000.00.
9. Winners can only win once during the entire duration of the promo. He/She will get the prize of bigger value.
10. Winners will be notified via registered mail. For the raffle promo, the redemption period will be within 60 days from receipt of notification letter. For the premium item, redemption period shall be within 60 days from end of promo period.
11. To claim prize, winners must present the remaining half of the warranty card, a valid ID and the registered notice. In the event that the winner cannot present the warranty card, the winner can still claim his prize upon presentation of a valid ID and the registered notice. In the case of a provincial winner, he/she can claim the prize at the nearest Canon branch/dealer.
12. Premium items can be claimed on or a day after purchase at the dealer or reseller store where the product was purchased.

Promo duration: June 6 to July 31, 2005. Per DTI NCR Permit No.1500, Series of 2005.

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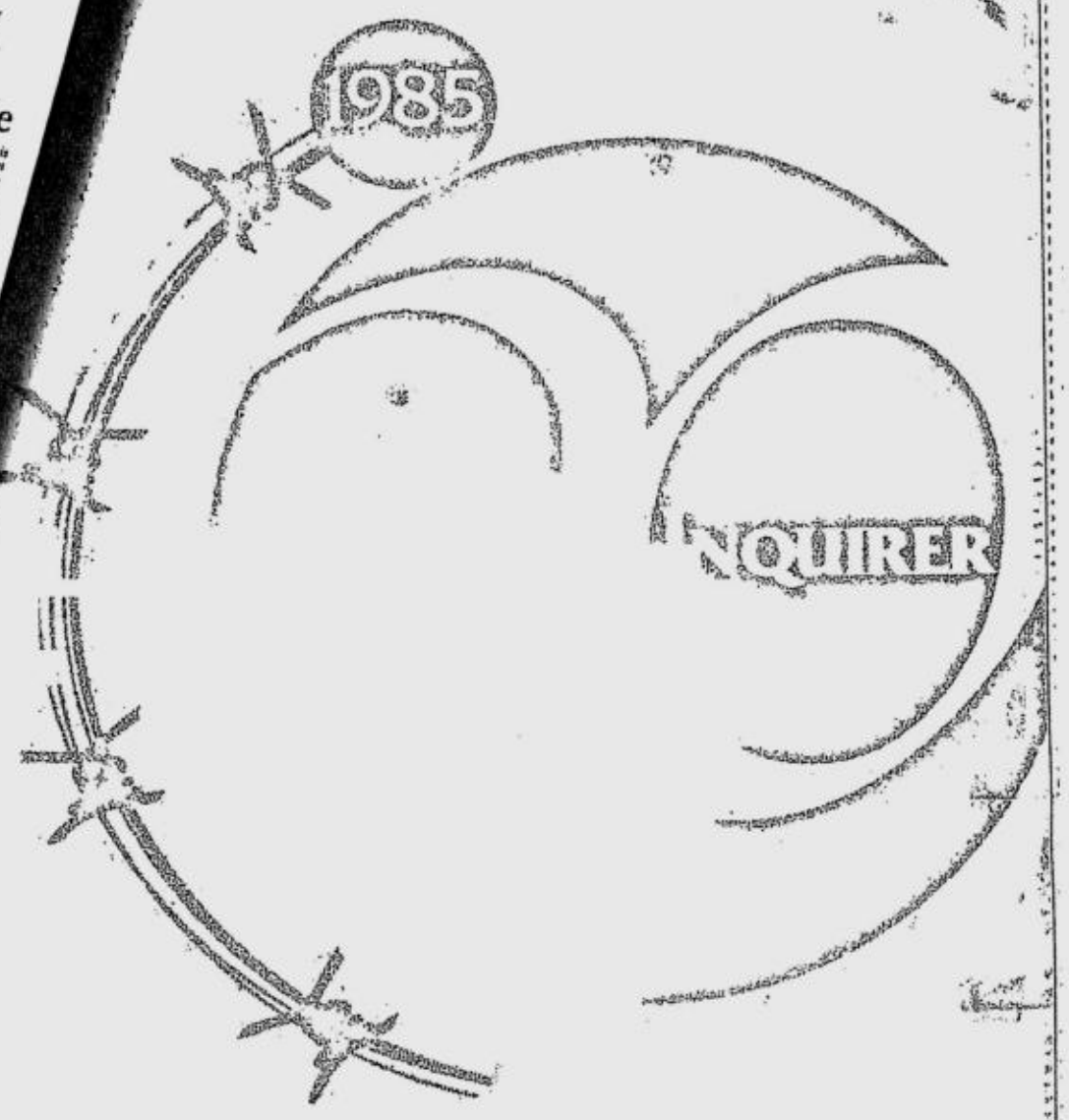

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Finance department seen to control GOCCs' fiscal problems by yearend

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance said that by the end of the year, it would have instilled fiscal discipline among government-owned and –controlled corporation (GOCCs), whose huge losses were blamed in part for the country's fiscal woes.

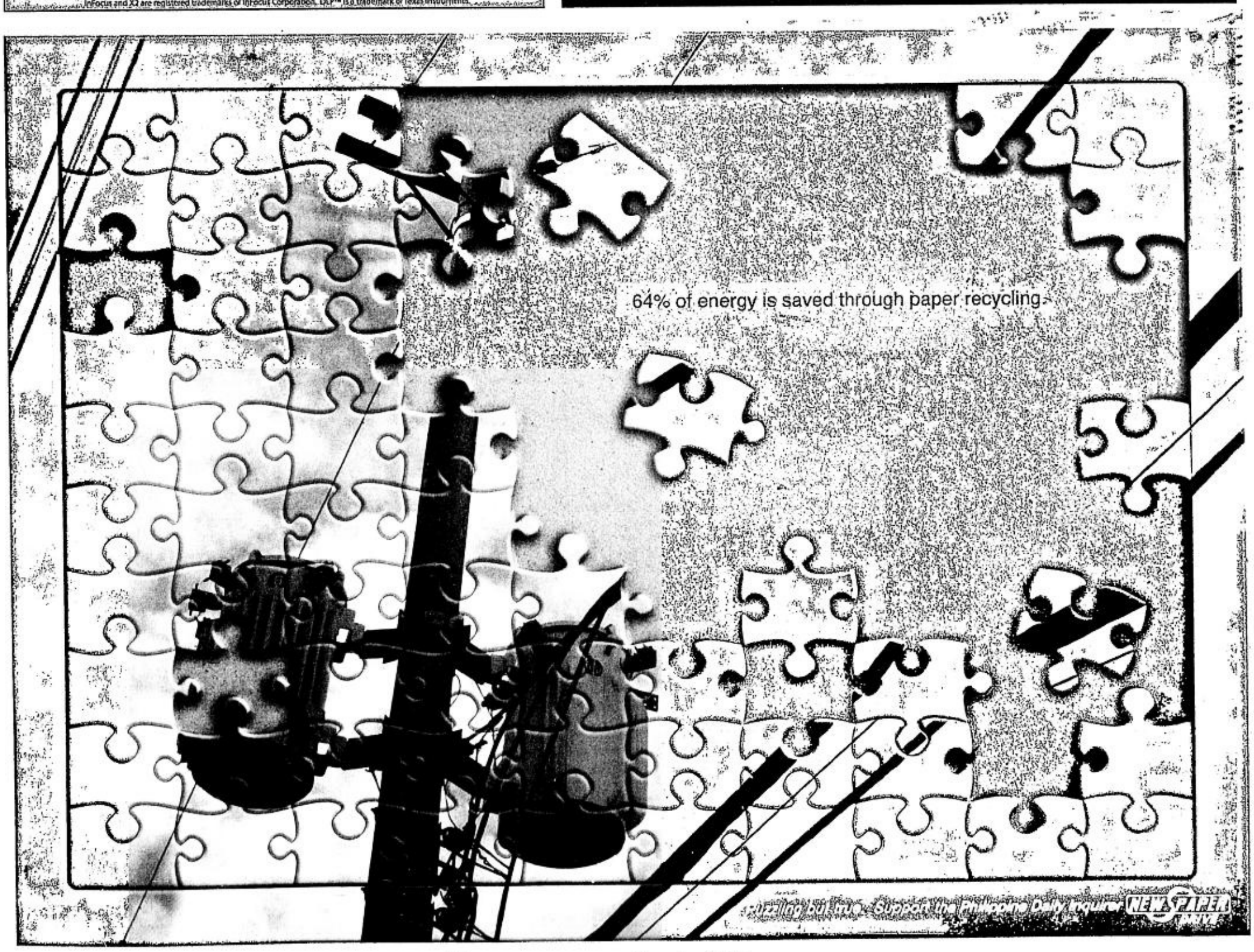
The DOF earlier said that it had begun scrutinizing the financial reports of the state-owned firms. The reports would provide the basis for a study on whether the firms need to be rationalized or dissolved.

The DOF said that the 14 GOCCs need to trim down their combined budget deficits by as much as 53 percent, to only P42.5 billion this year. Last year, their deficits reached P90.7 billion.

DOF data showed that in the first quarter of the year, the combined net deficits of the 14 monitored GOCCs stood at P8.352 billion, or about 10 percent lower than the P9.255 billion recorded in the same period last year.

The National Power Corp., the heaviest loser among the GOCCs, posted P5.6 billion in deficit, while the National Food Authority had P6.2 billion in deficit. The Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, on the other hand, recorded a surplus P5.8 billion, the biggest surplus recorded during the period.

Michelle V. Remo



Energy consumption in full power

Energy consumption is at an all time high in this day and age of automation. Power utilization has become an indispensable part of a modern lifestyle where work is electricity-dependent, and leisure is even battery-powered.

However, we can all do our share in energy preservation through paper recycling. Because paper is being reused instead, energy use in raw material extraction and processing is therefore eliminated. Energy consumption of paper mills which count among the largest is decreased. Conserved energy sums up to something that can be valuably used by future generations.

You can be one in saving our energy resources through the NewPaper Drive. Now on its fifth year, this Inquirer recycling campaign aims to make a difference in the environment. **Linis Ganda, Inquirer's partner in making a difference in the environment, will pick-up old newspapers and tabloids for FREE within Metro Manila.** For inquiries, call Winnie or Michelle at 410-0383 or 448-7835. For pick-ups, call CARPEL Office at 430-0656 or 430-8411 and look for Weng, Lorrie or Myra. Pick-ups are from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays, from June 25 to October 25, 2005.

Interested individuals may also drop off their newspapers and tabloids at the different Inquirer offices. In Manila: FEP Printing Press loading dock; 3817 Mascardo St. (behind the Inquirer building) Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City. Tel. No. 8974386 local 2160. Contact Person: Adrian Cruz. In Laguna: Printtown Bldg. Mamplasan, Biñan, Laguna. Tel. No. 8974386 local 2158. Contact Person: Adrian Cruz. In Cebu: FEP Printing Press, Warehouse #1, Menzo Compound National Highway, Pajo, Lapu Lapu City. Tel. No. (032) 3407970 to 71. Contact Person: Lenny Brua. In Davao: FEP Printing Press loading dock, Brgy. Ma-A, Ma-A Road, Davao City. Tel. No. (082) 844-1711 to 12. Contact Person: Rowena Balandra.

FEP will receive newspapers from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Makati, Wednesdays and Fridays in Laguna and weekdays in Cebu and Davao. Sellers will be paid P5.00 per kilo. Fit into this picture-perfectly by selling us your old newspapers and tabloids of any kind now.

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Editor Aries Espinosa

20 agri-biz sectors move to beef up supply chain

SOME 20 industry associations representing the country's various food and agri-business sectors are moving together to bring about world-class efficiency in the supply chain.

This developed as an efficient supply chain proved to be a key factor in attaining competitiveness in the agriculture and food industry.

Led by the Department of Agriculture and the National Agricultural and Fishery Council, the industry associations are helping organize this year's Agrilink and Foodlink to serve as the medium for that goal.

Agrilink and Foodlink constitute the country's biggest and most prestigious annual international trade show on agri-business and food.

"And Agrilink/Foodlink 2005 is the perfect event and venue for all the industry players to develop and strengthen their networks of equally efficient suppliers and markets," said Antonio V. Roces, president of the Foundation for Resource Linkage Development (FRLD), a non-government organization serving the agri and food sectors.

FRLD is co-organizing the Agrilink/Foodlink 2005 with the various national industry associations and government agencies that include the Agri-Aqua International, Bureau of Animal Industry, Chamber of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Cooperative Development Authority, Distribution Management Association of the Philippines, Flower Club Philippines, Livestock Development Council, National Federation of Hog Farmers, National Onion Growers Cooperative Marketing Association.

Organic Producers Trade Association, Philippine Amalgamated Supermarket Association, Philippine Association of Hog Raisers, Philippine Chamber of Agriculture and Food, Philippine Coconut Authority, Philippine Crop Insurance Corp, Philippine Food Processors and Exporters Organization, Philippine Rice Research Institute, Philippine Sugar Millers Association, Postharvest Horticulture Training and Research Center, and Technology and Livelihood Resource Center, among others.

Their member-companies and constituent enterprises are expected to participate in the products exhibition, technology seminars, and business conferences that comprise Agrilink/Foodlink 2005.

Catering to both local and foreign participants, Agrilink is now on its 12th year and Foodlink on its 6th. Both international events are held in tandem annually since 2000.

For this year, Agrilink and Foodlink will have "Efficient Supply Chain: Key to Competitiveness" as its theme.

The twin events, which will be held at the World Trade Center Metro Manila from Oct. 6 to 8, are designed for the pursuit of competitiveness by making available all the products, services, technologies and systems to attain efficiency in the supply chain, while serving as a venue for developing the required level of corporate linkages for such purpose.

At the same time, Agrilink and Foodlink are geared to generate business opportunities, retail sales, booked orders, marketing tie-ups, joint ventures, and other lucrative transactions between the exhibitors and the hordes of visitors and trade buyers.

Inquiries and/or reservations can be made with FRLD (838-4549, 838=4852; fax 838-4573, or e-mail frld@pldtdsl.net, or log on to www.frld.org/agrilink).

Specifically, Agrilink 2005 covers agricultural chemicals, animal breeding, animal health and nutrition, aquaculture, equipment and machinery, feed ingredients and processing, fertilizers, financial institutions, fruits and vegetables, horticulture, irrigation systems, seafoods, seeds, and wastewater management, among many others.

On the other hand, Foodlink 2005 will comprise beverages, consultancy, cooling and storage facilities, dairy, fishery products, food ingredients and additives, food packaging materials, food processing and packaging, meat products, post-harvest facilities, process automation, processed food, and storage and logistics, among others.

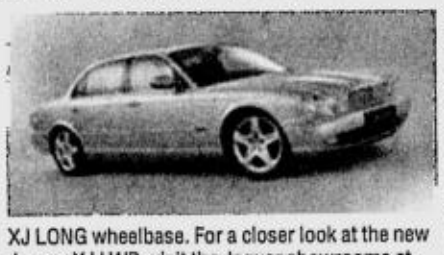
CITYSTATE BANK AGREEMENT WITH CENTENNIAL SAVINGS BANK

Citystate Savings Bank recently forged an agreement for a reciprocal money market line facility with Centennial Savings Bank. Shown, from left, are Ferdinand G. Austria, Centennial Bank VP for accounts management group, Des Corazon Cruz, Citystate Bank Shaw Boulevard branch manager, D. Alfred A. Cabangon, Citystate Bank president, Myrna S. Javier, Centennial Bank VP for branch banking, and Josie S. Monegas, Citystate Bank VP for treasury. Citystate Savings Bank is a forerunner in providing quality service to its depositors for being the 2004 outstanding savings bank by the Consumers Union of the Philippines.

Jaguar XJ wins in 2005 Fleet World honors

THE JAGUAR XJ has won the prestigious Best Luxury Car Award in the 2005 Fleet World Awards for a second consecutive year. The awards were made at a special ceremony May 19 at the Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall.

The awards are judged by a panel of experts representing the leasing industry, fleet managers, motoring journalists, residual value guides and Fleet World's own editorial team. The judges took a wide range of factors into account, including residual values, maintenance costs, reliability, driver appeal and manufacturer backup.



XJ LONG wheelbase. For a closer look at the new Jaguar XJ LWB, visit the Jaguar showrooms at Enzo Building, Buendia Avenue, Makati and along ADB Avenue, Ortigas Center, or call 897-8888 for more information.

Accepting the award, Jaguar's corporate operations manager James Drake-Lee commented: "We are delighted to receive this important recognition for a second consecutive year. The XJ appeals to the business driver's heart and head. Emotionally, company car drivers love the XJ because it combines Jaguar's traditional elegance and craftsmanship with advanced technology to provide a driving experience second to none. But the XJ is also the most rational purchase in the sector: It offers excellent value for money, great fuel economy, high residual values, reliability and, last but not least, the high-tech aluminum body delivers the lowest company car tax bill in its class."

Fleet World editor Ross Durkin said: "The Jaguar XJ continues to be the car that stands out above all others in its class. The car exudes a feeling of quality that none can match and you cannot help but feel special when you get behind the wheel. While buyers at this level are seldom constrained by budgets, they still want value for money and the XJ is a solid proposition in this respect. The XJ is more than a car, it's an experience that few will forget."

Fleet industry consultant George Emmerson, who has managed fleets at IBM, Black Horse Agencies and NHBC, said: 'There's increasing competition from rival prestige motor manufacturers who are trying to secure the chairman's vote, but Jaguar's flagship XJ series remains the car to which so many senior managers aspire. It's one of those boardroom decisions that will never be questioned and the day you receive the keys to your first XJ is the day that you know you have made it in your chosen line of business."

Jaguar has also announced that the XJ range will be further extended and strengthened with the addition of a new diesel version later this year. A first for the XJ, this is another step in Jaguar's expansion of its product range.

This is the second award for the Jaguar XJ this year, in January it picked up the award for best luxury car for a second consecutive year at the What Car? Car of the Year Awards.

Jaguar has also achieved remarkable success in the latest JD Power and Associates Initial Quality Study released recently in the United States. Improving to second place overall, Jaguar's success was led by its best performing model in the survey-the X-Type. Jaguar topped the poll as the highest-ranked European nameplate. In addition, Jaguar's Halewood plant, where the X-Type is manufactured, received JD Power's Gold Award for European plant performance.

MEDICAL MISSION IN BONDOC PENINSULA

The Public Affairs Service of AFPRescom recently conducted, together with combat units of the 2nd Division and Solcom, a medical mission including diagnostic, dental, 250 free eyeglasses, deworming, milkfeeding and nutritional products distribution as well as circumcision and minor surgeries. This was conducted in the hinterlands of Bondoc Peninsula in Quezon, at the cluster of barangays in Macalelon. Over 1,700 patients benefited from the free services. Shown are Major Roger Ramones (PA), Chief of Staff of PAS operating on a patient while Col. Jess Cabarrus (PAF), PAS Commander, observes.

IV chemotherapy replacement

RECENT data further strengthens the wealth of evidence showing that capecitabine, an innovative oral chemotherapy, should replace the current standard treatment of intravenous 5-fluorouracil/leucovorin (i.v. 5-FU/LV) for colon cancer patients in the adjuvant (post-surgery) setting. In March 2005, Roche received approval from the European authorities for capecitabine to be used as a post-surgery treatment in colon cancer patients.

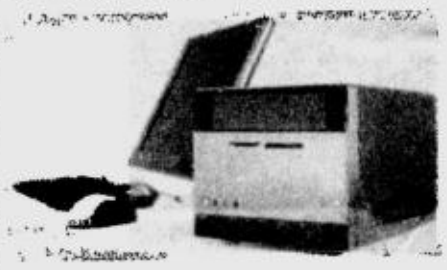
Results of a study comparing capecitabine and 5-FU/LV presented at the recent American Society of Clinical Oncology annual meeting demonstrate that capecitabine provides a unique treatment option with unsurpassed benefits for colon cancer patients. Capecitabine is confirmed to be at least as effective as standard chemotherapy. Relapse-free survival rates are significantly higher with capecitabine than with standard intravenous chemotherapy. There is a strong trend towards disease-free survival with capecitabine.

Less serious and more manageable side effects were reported with capecitabine than with standard chemotherapy. Cost-wise, with capecitabine, a patient only needs eight hospital visits compared to 30 if treated with standard chemotherapy. As capecitabine is in a tablet, patients can take it in the comfort of their own home and do not have to travel to cancer centers for treatment.

"This new data confirming that capecitabine should replace standard 5FU/LV chemotherapy is exciting news for patients and their doctors alike," said professor Chris Twelves of the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. "It gives colon cancer patients the freedom to use an effective, tolerable, and convenient oral treatment that is as at least effective as traditional intravenous chemotherapy but has fewer side effects and avoids the burden of frequent and expensive hospital visits."

The XPC factor in life

EXPERIENCE the advantage of having the future in personal computers (PC) today with the latest technologically advanced PC ever designed for modern living-the new Shuttle XPC, now exclusively available from PC Shack.



With its compact and lightweight aluminum casing outside, Shuttle XPC comes with far advanced system features inside along with a portable, flat-screen LCD monitor and trendy, carry-all bag that fits in everything for easy transport to wherever you please.

Exclusively manufactured by Shuttle; the pioneer-makers of computer aluminum casing, the XPC not only retains its famous portable cube design but also introduces yet another state-of-the-art feature for quieter operation with its water-cooled, heat pipe technology known as "ICI" (Integrated Cooling System). This ingenious device allows a single, mounted quiet fan inside to blow away the heat from the CPU by passing through a series of pipes and radiator fins screwed outside in the back of the chassis, giving it a super-cool, super-quiet operation at all times.

Ideal for both home and office, the new XPC includes a PCI slot for instant expandability using multiple audio interface and DSP cards, and an AGP port for expanding video cards. The XPC also has a microphone input, headphone output, 1394 IEEE ports, two USB 2.0 ports and an SDIF output, along with a LAN/Ethernet and COM ports, VGA connector, 6-Channel Audio output and PS/2 Mouse and Keyboard. All these and many more truly makes the XPC from Shuttle the future in home and office PC today. For more details, call PC Shack at 410-0755, 722-5616 or visit www.pc-shack.com.ph and www.shuttle.com.

Iprea's new officers

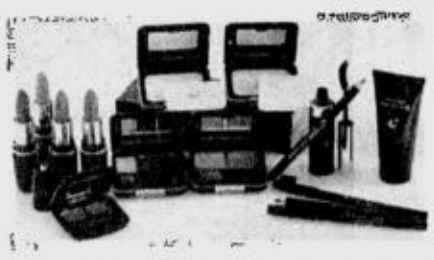
THE INSTITUTE of Philippine Real Estate Appraisers (Iprea), at its annual general membership meeting on May 28 at the Iprea Office, UP Campus, Diliman, Quezon City, has elected its new officers and board of directors for 2005-2006. Elected were Realtors Herbert E. Buot, IPA president; engineer Rolando V. Chua, IPA, vice-president; Meneleo P. Albano, IPA, secretary; Jose L. Ocampo, IPA, treasurer; Rodel EC Adiviso, IPA, auditor; Edmundo C. Aceron, IPA, Ernesto C. Ambrosio, IPA, Neil B. Campos, IPA, Rodolfo D. Leonen, IPA, Elmer S. Rivera, IPA, Rodolfo B. Venzon, IPA, directors. Abelardo S. Garcia, IPA is the incumbent 2004-2005 president. Realtors Quirino B. Baterna and Hernando D. Caluag are the presidential advisers. The induction and oath taking is scheduled on July 8 at the Quezon City Sports Club.

Iprea is the oldest organization of duly licensed realty appraisers, founded on Nov. 21, 1964. It interacts with other real estate groups and is a council member of the Realty Service Council of the Philippines (Rescop), the advisory body to the Department of Trade and Industry on matters involving real estate, housing and urban development. The announcement was released by Realtor/engineer Rolly V. Chua, IPA, Iprea corporate secretary.

ProductFILES

Colour Collection: Double-duty for beauty

WOMEN make it a point to wear make-up because it makes them beautiful. The proper choice and blend of colors can highlight a woman's most attractive features. But it can also make women even more beautiful when it does double duty by taking care of the skin.



This is the Colour Collection edge. It offers hues that are sure to draw attention to your best features while its dermatologist-tested formulation makes sure skin is always at its best condition. From foundation to lipstick, every step of the make-up application is a step towards a more beautiful you.

To keep your skin smooth and healthy, Colour Collection has made sure that its products have formulations that are dermatologist tested. Color Collection products include The Bi-Cake Powder Foundation, Vitamin E enriched Oil-Free Liquid Foundation in Light Tan and Latte, The Blush-On Duo in Rosy Red, eyeshadow trios that come in palettes of Berry Stains, Terra Cotta, Colors of Asia and Golden Sands, the Eye-Lining Pencil, and the Mega-Lash Mascara. The make-up routine is complete with the Full Coverage Pressed Powder and Vitamin E-infused lipsticks.

Colour Collection cosmetics is available at Sara Lee Direct Selling-Philippines (formerly House of Sara Lee) and authorized Sara Lee dealers nationwide. For inquiries, call 810-5402, or e-mail customer.relations@saraleedirectselling.ph.

Andrean '81 GMM

ST. ANDREW'S School of Parañaque City Batch 1981 will be holding its general membership meeting on July 8 at 6 p.m. at the Tech Plus Building, 647 Quirino Avenue, San Dionisio, Parañaque City. For more details on this event, call Butch M. Basilio at 0917-5324502, 0920-9014908, or at 046-5028910, Roger delas Alas at 304-3536, Jun Barroso at 0918-9189910, or Jojo Hermoso at 0917-812647, or 805-6001). "Pro Deo et Patria".

Cheers, discounts for Grilla's 7 years

WHAT could be more perfect than seven? As Grilla Bar and Grill turns 7, the restaurant rekindles Filipinos' favorite way of celebrating life's precious moments-savoring great food and enjoying the company of loved ones. Grilla immediately became a hit among diners when it first opened in Antipolo, along Sumulong Highway in 1998. It was one of the trailblazers among Filipino restaurants offering grilled favorites spiced with the flavors of world cuisine. For its 7th anniversary, Grilla has whipped up treats to delight avid patrons. On June 29, Grilla will be having the "7 Cheers, 7 Beers for 77 Pesos" promo. Head to any Grilla branch on that day from 9 p.m. until 12 midnight. On June 30, Grilla will hold the "Lucky 7" promo where every group of diners get a chance to throw a pair of dice to get a Lucky 7 combination, and enjoy a 70-percent discount on their tab. For more information, call Grilla Libis at 632-9691, Rockwell Drive at 899-8775, The Promenade in Greenhills at 726-6200, and Antipolo at 676-4664.

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE VISAYAS, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following projects:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) & FUND SOURCE	CONTRACT DURATION
A. Supply of Security Services for UP in the Visayas campuses, Batan Mariculture Station, Marine Biological Station, Brackishwater Aquaculture Center, and its training & research vessel "TRV Sardinella"	➢ Miagao Campus ➢ Iloilo City campus ➢ Batan, Aklan ➢ Taklong Island ➢ Leganes, Iloilo ➢ Iloilo City pier	P6,500,000.00	One (1) year
B. Supply of Janitorial Services	Miagao and Iloilo City campuses	P3,500,000.00	One (1) year
C. Supply of Cafeteria Services	Iloilo City campus	–	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project with the last three (3) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding, and have the key personnel and equipment (owned, leased, or under purchase) available for the prosecution of the project. The list of minimum equipment/logistics requirement is indicated in the Eligibility Forms. The Eligibility check/Screening as well as the preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid (Projects A & B) shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of activities is listed as follows:

ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE		
	SECURITY SERVICES	JANITORIAL SERVICES	CAFETERIA SERVICES
Submission of Letters of Intent (LOI)	July 11-15, 2005	July 11-15, 2005	July 11-15, 2005
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 18-20, 2005	July 20-26, 2005	July 25-29, 2005
Site Inspection	July 25-27, 2005	July 28, 2005	August 1, 2005
Pre-bid Conference	July 29, 2005	August 3, 2005	August 5, 2005
Opening of Bids	August 12, 2005	August 15, 2005	August 17, 2005

The Pre-bid Conference and Opening of Bids for Security, Janitorial and Cafeteria Services will be held on the dates stated above at 2:00 o'clock in the afternoon at the Tea Room, Cafeteria Building, UPV, Iloilo City campus.

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount the University Cashier.

PROJECT	COST OF BID DOCUMENTS
Supply of Security Services	P5,000.00
Supply of Janitorial Services	P3,000.00
Supply of Cafeteria Services	P1,000.00

The University of the Philippines in the Visayas assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

Approved by:

DR. CARLOS C. BAYLON
Chair, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI - June 27 & July 4, 2005)

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APOLOGY

Alvin Co, with retail store in Bulacan, sincerely apologizes to Polyfoam-RGC International Corp., the registered owner of the trademark Uratex, and to the buying public for selling mattresses and other foam products using the trademark Uratex without the consent of Polyfoam-RGC International Corp.

Alvin Co admits that his unauthorized use of the trademark Uratex is a criminal activity that constitutes trademark infringement and unfair competition punishable under the Revised Penal Code and the Intellectual Property Code and that his criminal activity has caused great damage to Polyfoam-RGC International Corp. and its trademark Uratex and to the public who were deceived into buying his goods thinking that they were genuine Uratex products. Uratex mattresses and foam products are well known for their high quality and reasonable price.

Alvin Co pledges and undertakes immediately to completely stop using the trademark Uratex and to withdraw and destroy the goods which falsely use the trademark Uratex.

ALVIN CO
Gen. Manager

(PDI – June 27, 2005)

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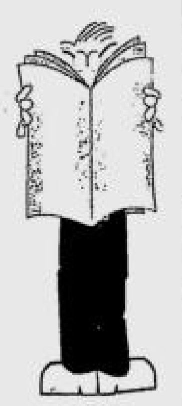

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Postal Corporation, through its Special Bids and Awards Committee for UPU-QSF CCTV Project invites Security Control and Surveillance Equipment and Systems providers, specifically those involve in the supply of equipment and installation of CCTV system to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Project Name	Project Identification Index	Source of Fund	Approved Budget for the contract	Procurement Requirement	Contract Period
Improvement of Mail Security at the Central Mail Exchange Center (CMEC)	QSFPHL0402SEC01	UPU-QSF January 2005	128,975.00USD	Procurement of CCTV equipment and system including its installation/testing, commissioning and training	Three Months

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within at least the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The eligibility check/screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use the pass/fail criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post qualification, and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedules of activities are as follows

	Activities	Schedule Date	Schedule Time
1.	Issuance of Bid Documents	July 01, 2005	9 AM - 4PM
2	First Pre-Bid Conference	July 07, 2005	1PM
3	Deadline of Submission of Bid Proposals	July 22, 2005	9AM
4	Opening of Bids	July 22, 2005	10AM
5	Post-qualification	7 days after opening of bids	
6	Notice of Award	14 days after opening of bids	

Accreditation fee is 300.00 PHP. Bid Documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of 1,000.00 PHP in cash and/or manager's check payable to PhilPost

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Date of Publication :

Newspaper	Phil. Daily Inquirer	–	June 27 and July 4, 2005
Website	GEPS and PhilPost	–	Starting June 27, 2005
Bulletin Board	PhilPost	–	Starting June 27, 2005

APPROVED
(Sgd.) LUIS D. CARLOS
Chairman
Special BAC for UPU-QSF CCTV Project

(PDI – June 27, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

In compliance with POEA Rules & Regulations Part II Rule II Section 12, we wish to inform the public that **Mr. RANDY P. BASCO** ceased to be connected with **ARPAPHIL SHIPPING CORPORATION** as from 04 June 2005.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – June 27, 2005)

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NFA distributes rice to deficit areas

THE NATIONAL Authority continues to serve the rice needs of remote areas and those where production is low with its stocks imported from various countries. According to NFA administrator Gregorio Y. Tan, Jr. the agency has distributed a total of 347,609 MT of the staple since the start of the year. Most of these are stocks contracted by the government from countries like Vietnam and Thailand. Tan expressed confidence that with the completion of the deliveries of the imported rice this month, the country will be sufficient in the supply of the staple especially during the traditional non-production months starting July. He said his office continues to implement intensive market monitoring to ensure the availability of government rice at the set prices in various markets nationwide. For more information on NFA programs, the public may send inquiries, complaints or suggestions to TXT NFA through mobile No. 0917-6210927.

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John 14:6

GIL PELEGRIN, SR.

Died June 24, 2005

Husband of deceased **Naty Fiel**, father and father-in-law of **Tony & Sharon**, **Baby & Boy**, **Gil, Jr. & Marie**, **Chu & Tonichi**, **Chit & Ed**, **Tet & Vic**, **Dominic**, **Gene** and **Tina & Ken**; grandchildren, great grandchild, sisters, sisters-in-law and **Seny**, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at Forest Hill Funeral Homes, 931 Quirino Highway.

Interment will be on June 29, 2005.

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ARIEL "AYIE " BAUTISTA BARLIS

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 25, 2005 at the age of 59.

He will be most missed by his beloved wife **JEAN**; children **ARMAND** & wife **HANNA**, **JAYJAY** & husband **ALEX**, **JHANICE**, **TISAY** and **ALAIN**; grandchildren **KYLE**, **DENISE** & **NATHAN**; mother **PROCESA**; brother **CHRISTOPHER** & wife **SIEW-SIEW**; sisters **EVA**, **ESTE**, **MINDA** and daughter **PAULA**; in-laws, relatives and friends; and by all of us who were given the grace to know and love him.

His body lies in state at Chapel Charity, Don Bosco Parish, Makati.

Interment will be in Davao City. Details to follow.

Holy Spirit, inspire me.
Love of God, consume me.
On the true path lead me.
Mary, my mother look down upon me.
With Jesus bless me.
From all evil, from all illusion
From all danger, preserve me.

Prayer of the Blessed Sister Mariam

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COMMEND

Deo Optimo Maximo

His Eminence, Jaime L. Cardinal Sin D.D.

1928 – 2005
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Who made Greenbelt Chapel possible, encouraging us in its establishment, giving us its vision and mission of an apostolate rich in religious, spiritual services, and social programs, and admonishing us to pursue and practice a policy of transparency and public accountability.

We thank God for such a Good Shepherd.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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Dennis T. Baclor – **Cum Laude**	BS Accountancy	Binalbagan Catholic College
John Paul B. Barias – **Academic Distinction**	BSC – CAIS	San Beda College
Leo F. Polutan	BS Information Technology	Davao Oriental State College of Science & Technology
Mark Anthony P. Tampus	BS Electrical Engineering	Central Mindanao University

Technological

Karlo C. Anib – **With Honors**	Associate in Information Technology	Leon National College of Agriculture – Iloilo
Genero D. Cordova, Jr.	Computer Technology	Liceo de Cagayan
Ryan R. Tolentino	Computer Technician	College of Technological Science – Cebu
Julius Ceazar A. Gonzales	Diploma in Computer Hardware Technology	Datamex Institute of Computer Technology – Manila
Roel Cahapay	Agri-Farming Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Leo Macaranas	Agri-Farming Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Rey Patricio	Agri-Farming Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Rheynoel Alorro	Integrated Farming Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati
Daniel Tapil	Integrated Farming Technology	Don Bosco Training Center – Mati

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Allen Michael A. Arendon – **8th Placer**	Electronics and Communications Engineer	University of St. La Salle – Bacolod
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Richs S. Onipon	Electronics and Communications Engineer	Don Bosco Technical College – Mandaluyong
Jerroz B. Narciso	Medical Technologist	Central Philippine University – Iloilo

The Menzi family requests friends and pious readers to remember him in their prayer.

In Loving Memory
4th Death Anniversary

Potenciano "Nanoy" Ilusorio

(December 15, 1912 – June 28, 2001)

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, June 28, 2005 at the following:

Mary Immaculate Church *Baguio Cathedral, Upper Session Road, Baguio*	5:15 P.M.
St. Joseph the Worker Church, *Pacdal, Baguio City*	6:15 A.M.
Sanctuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of Remedies Parish, *Malate, Manila*	7:00 A.M.
Redemptorist Church, *Baclaran, Parañaque*	6:45 A.M.
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish *Multinational Village, Parañaque*	6:30 P.M.
Telecoms Plaza Chapel, *Makati City*	12:15 P.M.

We request you to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

The Ilusorio Family &
The P. Ilusorio Foundation, Inc.

Zenaida Sayo Pinili

Peacefully joined our Creator on June 25, 2005 at the age of 72.

Her bereaved husband **Lilius P. Pinili**; son **Patrick Prometheus**, daughter-in-law **Teresita**; grandchildren **Tricia, Pauline, John Carlo, John Patrick** and **John Michael**; brothers **Capt. Mariano S. Sayo Jr.** (deceased) and wife **Pachit, Capt. Homer S. Sayo** and wife **Joy, Capt. Juan S. Sayo** and wife **Esperanza, Ramon S. Sayo** and wife **Glenda**, sister **Catalina S. Mercado**; and nieces **Ruth, Ethel** and **Grace** request the pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 29, 2005 at the Loyola Memorial park, Marikina City.

In Remembrance
of

NORBERTO SISON VILA

Loving husband, father, lolo, and great lolo

Please include him in your prayers especially today, June 27, in the first anniversary of his death, as we, his family remember him with love in our daily prayers.

Thank you.

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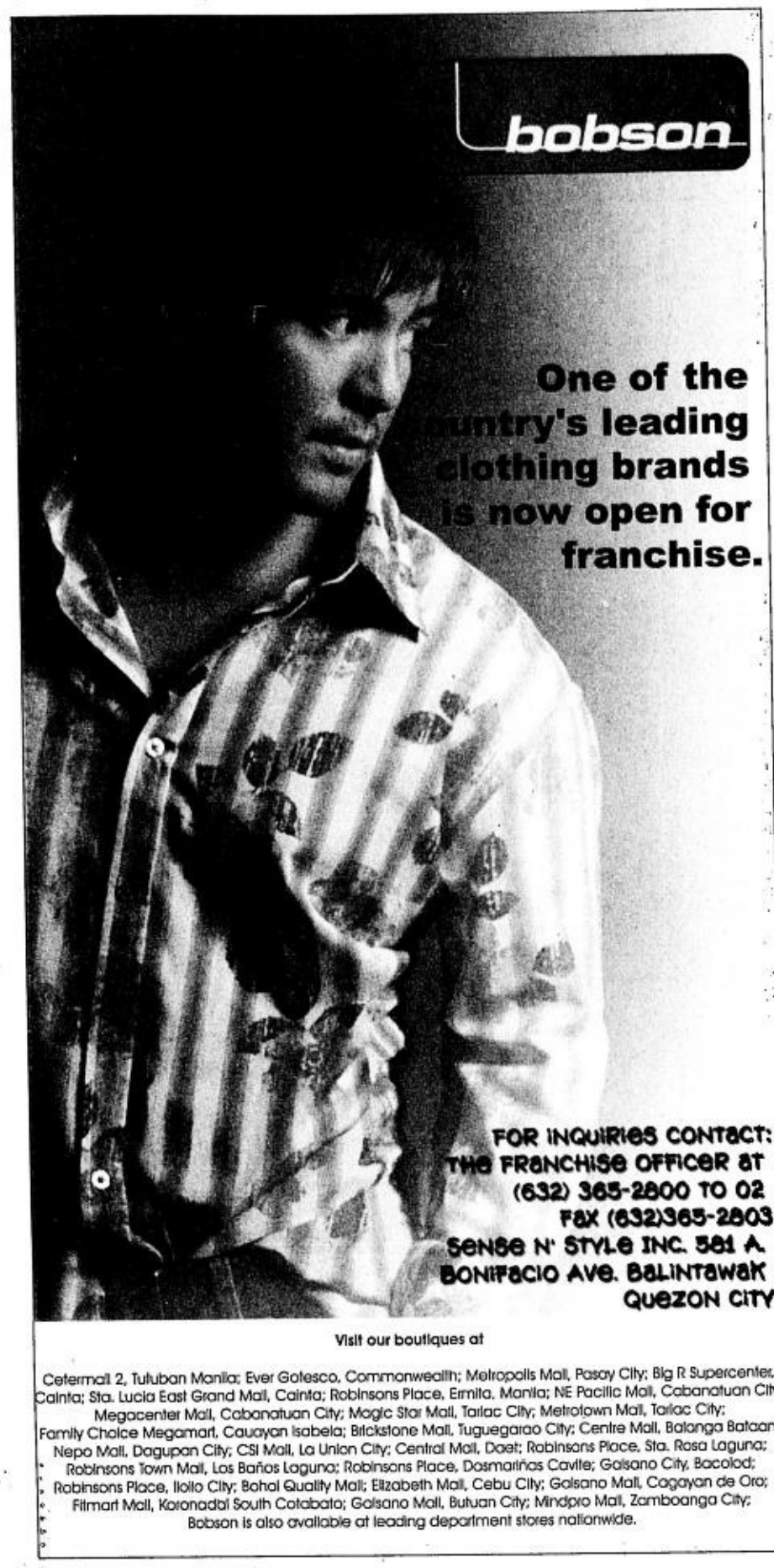
May he obtain his eternal reward
in the Father's Loving Embrace!

BUSINESS



Regulator turns down Lifetime Plans petition

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By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission on Friday rejected the petition of pre-need firm Lifetime Plans Inc. to reverse the ruling of the corporate watchdog terminating Lifetime's corporate existence.

In a statement issued Saturday, the SEC said it denied Lifetime's motion for reconsideration due to lack of merit.

With the SEC decision, Lifetime will have to be folded back to its troubled parent firm Pacific Plans Inc., said Gerard Lukban, SEC secretary.

Lifetime spokesperson Samuel V. Torres in a statement said that the pre-need firm would appeal the ruling.

"While we did not expect the SEC to reverse itself, we believe we have strong legal grounds against the order of revocation," Torres said.

In the meantime, he said, LPI would work closely with Pacific Plans to ensure that no Lifetime employee or sales agent would be displaced.

Torres also assured beneficiaries that their benefits would continue to roll in. He asked the rest of Lifetime's 400,000 plan holders to continue paying the premiums to prevent their policies from lapsing.

In a five-page resolution, the SEC said it saw no valid reason to reverse its previous ruling revoking the certificate of registration of Lifetime.

It said it cancelled Lifetime's certificate after the latter failed to comply with certain requirements that would show it had resources to sustain its operations.

Lifetime's submissions in compliance with the rules were also found to be insufficient, according to the SEC's Company Registration and Monitoring Department (CRMD).

The SEC at first allowed PPI to spin off its pension, memorial and a portion of its educational plans in August last year to its subsidiary Lifetime.

PPI was then asked to show proof that it transferred assets to Lifetime Plans. These included collected receivables worth P40.6 million, and the transfer of ownership of transportation equipment with a net book value of P5.7 million to Lifetime.

PPI also subscribed to Lifetime's capital stock worth P205.14 million.

Shares of Lifetime would only be issued to PPI after the mother firm offered proof that Lifetime indeed owned these assets.

The SEC said neither PPI nor Lifetime had complied with the requirement.

In its resolution, the SEC said that "the amounts involved (were) not petty cash that can be brushed aside as inconsequential for (the) purpose of determining whether Lifetime's capital base is sufficient to meet the financial requirements of its corporate objectives.

"The CRMD staff could find itself in serious administrative trouble if it did not recommend the revocation (of LPI's articles of incorporation)," the SEC said. "At the end of the day, it is the people who transact business with Lifetime that will be prejudiced if it turns out that the assets that are supposed to sustain Lifetime are not available to satisfy the requirements of its planholders."

The SEC's move will greatly affect the parent firm, Pacific Plans.

PPI earlier sought a court's permission to undergo rehabilitation.

PPI now runs the risk of being denied rehabilitation after the SEC has announced that Lifetime would have to be folded back under Pacific Plans.

Also, the SEC argued that PPI's petition for rehabilitation should be dismissed for being moot and academic.

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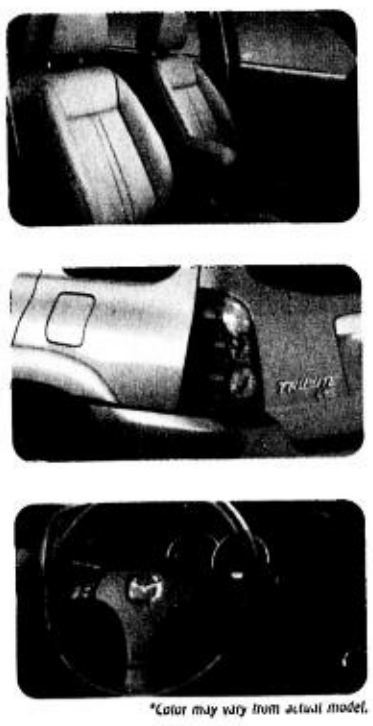
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BUSINESS Monday
E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph
Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Four firms show only way to do business is the right way

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

CORPORATE governance.

These are the two words that many local companies proudly utter to prove that they are doing business the right way. Not just for themselves, but for the investing public and the consumers who patronize their goods and services.

But while all Philippine companies embrace the concept of doing everything in their power to conduct themselves in a way the investing public deserves—and they have their corporate governance handbook to show for it—not many live up to their promise.

Of those companies that did pay more than lip service to good governance, real estate giant Ayala Land Inc., banking leader Bank of the Philippine Islands, telecommunications giant Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. and refining firm Petron Corp. stand head and shoulders above the rest of the companies listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange, according to the Institute of Corporate Directors.

According to the corporate governance study by the ICD, one of the leading lights of the movement toward good corporate governance, these four firms ranked high on the governance scorecard due largely to adherence to disclosure rules.

MONTINOLA

AYALA

ICD chair Jesus Estanislao says in an interview that compared to the other companies covered by the governance scorecard study, these four firms readily share information required by investors and shareholders alike.

Transparent

Management moves are transparent and both regulators and investors have easy access to these vital information, either through their company website, disclosures to the Philippine Stock Exchange, and annual reports.

Timely and adequate disclosure of information vital to making investment decisions has become crucial in the aftermath of the Enron, Worldcom and Tyco scandals that rocked corporate America.

The collapse of those companies, which saw many shareholders kiss their life savings goodbye, could have been avoided if the proper disclosures were made.

These four firms are unlikely to follow in the footsteps of these American firms that fell so far from grace as good corporate governance forms an indelible part of their corporate culture.

BPI president Aurelio Montinola III says that good corporate governance is not just a buzzword in BPI's dictionary. It is part of BPI's way of life.

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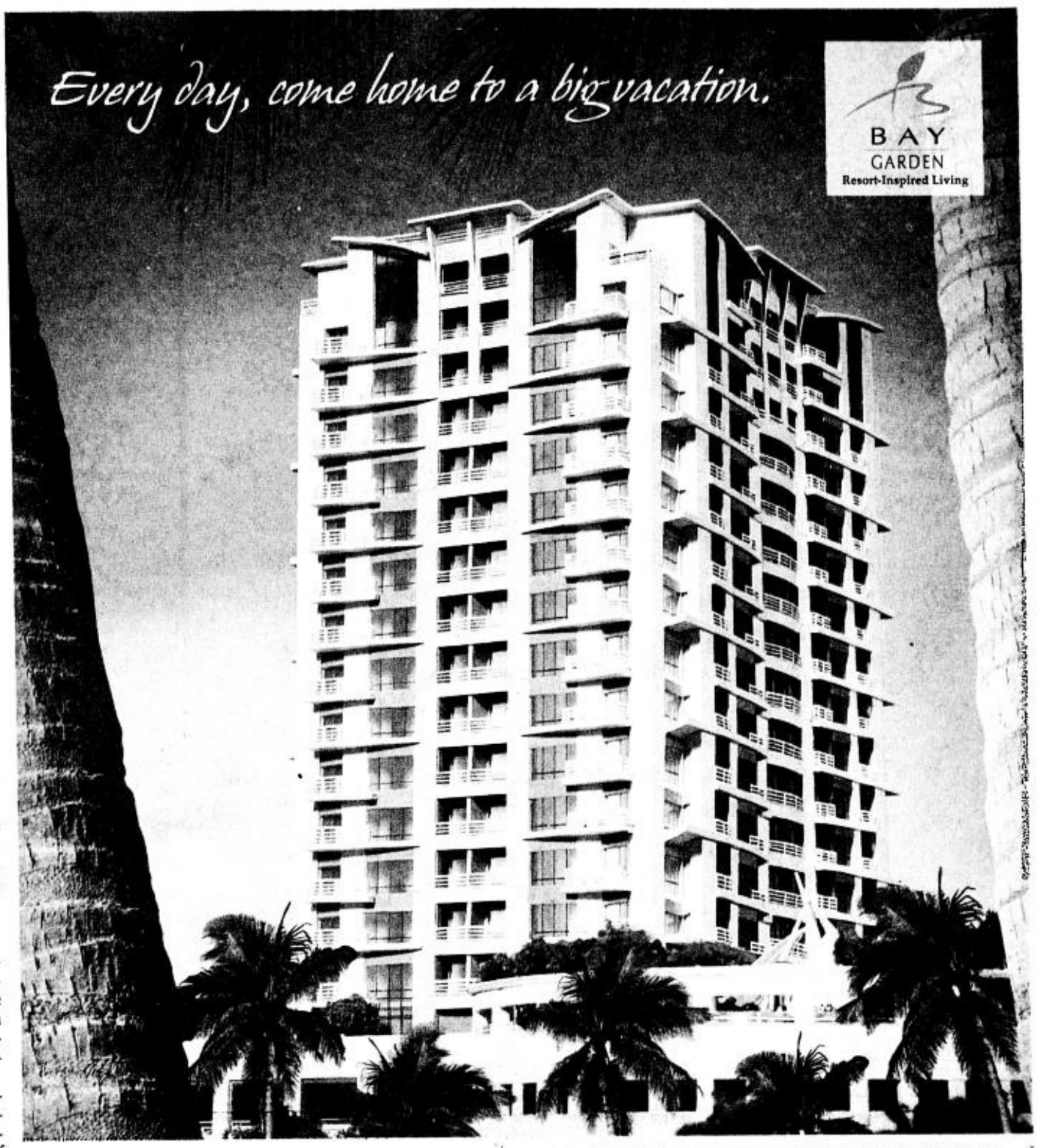

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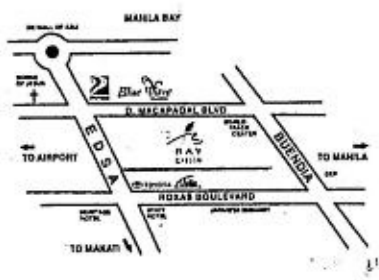

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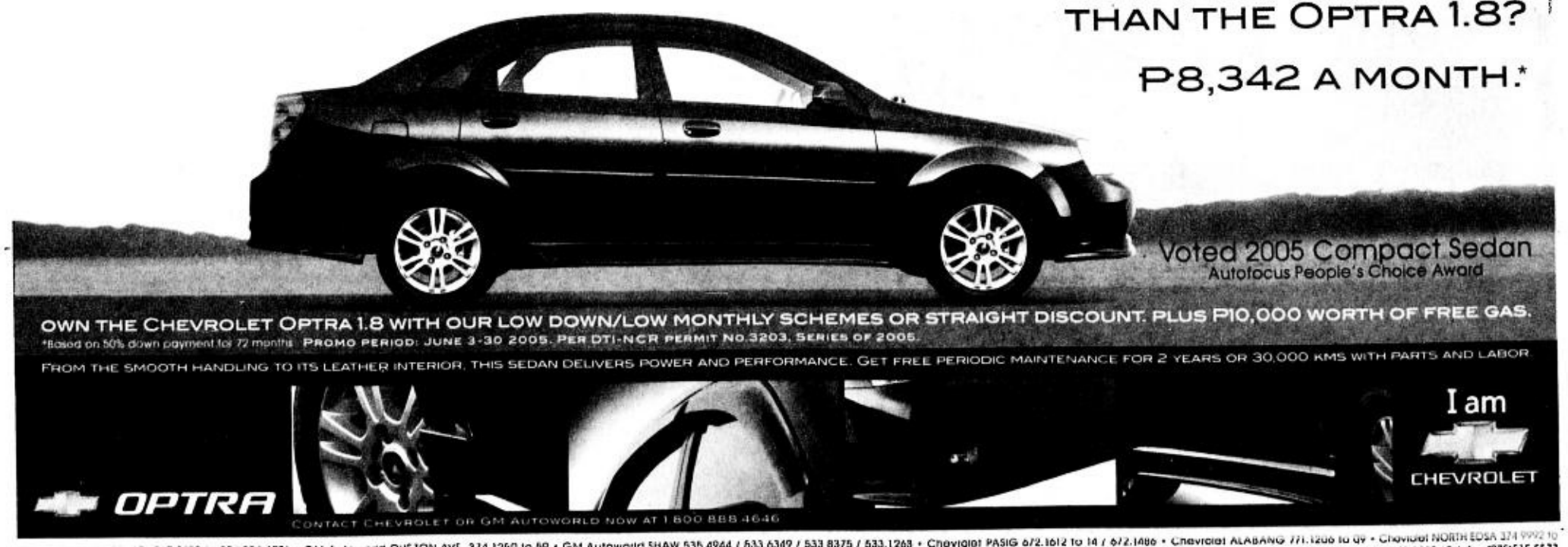

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Please take notice that our client, Audi AG of Germany (Audi), issued a **notice of termination** of the agreement on the sale of Audi products between Auto Prominence Corporation and Audi effective **March 31, 2005**.

Audi continues to recognize all its warranties. Audi car owners and the public are advised to contact the **new Audi authorized distributor / service provider in the Philippines, PGA Cars, Inc.**, for sales and service requirements, at 201 EDSA, Mandaluyong City.

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Living up to higher standards

MAPPING THE FUTURE

Franco G. del Rosario

THE THEME of this year's annual MAP CEO conference is "Change Or Perish: The Choice Is Yours!"

For those who missed my last article in this column, I wrote about the comfort zone as the enemy of change; as in this state, we tend not to be driven and we no longer grow.

I also talked about changing to become a team player as a way of growing and contributing, and about the fact that a human being's greatest desire is love and acceptance.

I said that all human behavior is belief driven. This means we do things because we believe it will lead us to something we need or want.

Finally, this led to the notion that if we want a quality of life, we have to change some of our belief structures that are preventing us from raising our standards.

That may sound unbelievably simplistic, but it's the only way to change a person's life.

Mediocrity: Enemy of raising standards

We become the people we are with.

Parents have been told: "If your teenagers hang around with drug addicts, they will become drug addicts."

If others are mediocre or have a lower standard than we have, we can't help but lower our standards for them since we care about them and we don't want to be judgmental.

There is an old adage: "You lie down with dogs, you come out with fleas." It sounds awful, but it's true.

The problem is that there are mediocre people around us, be it at work, church, club, or even among friends.

So here's the challenge: What if we have a higher expectation of our life than the people we surround ourselves with?

Now we have a conflict.

But if we truly care about our mediocre friends and want them to have a better life, we may think about helping them raise their standards, instead of taking the easy way out and going down to their level.

Change to higher standards

To enjoy an extraordinary quality of life, we need to decide that there is a higher standard for us; that we can go to the next level after excellent; the outstanding level.

The easiest place to find examples of going after higher standards is in sports.

We see athletes stepping up to the challenge when no one expects it of them. Their determination, will, faith, courage, passion provide them the drive to excel.

You might ask, "well, what's wrong with being excellent?"

The reason we want to go to the outstanding level is that practically all the rewards are at this level.

But, if you think about it, the difference between excellent and outstanding is actually very little in terms of skills. In fact, it's more a difference in psychology, a standard difference—it's what we hold ourselves to. Outstanding is when you "stand out" from all the rest. But, in different areas in life, outstanding people get disproportionate rewards.

While it may seem unfair, that's how outstanding is rewarded in our culture.

For example, in many professional sports, the prize money for the champion ranges anywhere from 50- 100 percent more than that of the runner-up.

Do more than others

There are four things we need to change if we are to raise our standards.

First, we have to "risk more than others think is safe." We all know people that are "segurista." This kind of people would have difficulty continuously raising standards.

Cecil Beaton said: "Be daring, be different, be anything that will assert imaginative vision and integrity of purpose against the 'play-it safers', the slaves of the ordinary."

The second thing we need to do is "care more than others think is wise." This is what will always make us go the extra mile.

Theodore Roosevelt said, "There has never yet been a man in our history who led a life of ease whose name is worth remembering."

Third, we need to "dream more than others think is practical." We need to dare to imagine the possibilities, to dream what can happen.

We would not have any of the conveniences like cell phones, computers, if not for people that had big dreams. John Cage said: "I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones."

Fourth, we need to "do more than others think is possible." This means exceeding the bar after each time we raise it.

One of characteristics of a level 5 leader in Jim Collins' book, "Good To Great" (GTG), is professional will. Abbott Laboratories is one of the 11 GTG companies. When George Cain

LIVING/ B2-5

Business Leadership Forum

Ateneo de Manila University
John Gokongwei School of Management

IT'S ALL IN THE FAMILY:
UNLOCKING THE SECRETS OF SUCCESSFUL FAMILY BUSINESSES

The family business once more in focus.

Finally, here is the much-awaited follow-up to last year's successful family business forum, "It Runs in the Blood". Join us as the leading members of some of the most successful business families unlock for us the secrets of their success. The first session covered such issues as succession, diversification, and professionalization. "It's All in the Family" will cover yet another set of the most pressing issues that confront families and the businesses that they run: divestment, sibling rivalry, and the whole question of letting in-laws into the business (or not.)

As a special highlight, Professor Mike Trueblood, Director of the Family Business Council at California State University, will be flying to the Philippines to participate in this Forum and share the best practices and lessons learned in the United States.

Seize this rare opportunity to find out how you can better manage the relationship between family and family business. Learn from the experiences and insights of our speakers. Discover the secrets that can help you to unlock your own future business success!

Who should attend:
First, second and third generation members of business families and upper-level managers working in family businesses.

It's wisdom passed on through the years.
Let the experiences and insights of the speakers testify on behalf of family businesses everywhere. Their nuggets of wisdom will guide you to bring even more success to your enterprise.

Made in America: Lessons and Best Practices from Successful US Family Businesses
Professor Mike Trueblood
*Director, **Family Business Council California State University, Fullerton Campus***
The U.S. has spawned a number of highly successful family businesses that have made it big in their respective markets. The Director of CSU's Family Business Council, Professor Mike Trueblood shares with us some of the best practices of American family businesses. Learn from his accumulated wealth of experience and see how you can adapt these practices to suit and benefit your own family situation.

Growing the Family, Growing the Business
Socorro Ramos
*Founder, **National Bookstore***
Family and business are two of the most important aspects of your life. Listen to the Philippines' 2005 Entrepreneur of the Year, founder of the National Bookstore chain, and matriarch of one of the most successful business families in the Philippines as she shares some of her insights on how to combine the heart of a parent and the mind of an entrepreneur to successfully rear both business and family.

Should In-laws be Out-laws?
Dennis Valdez
*President, **LexMedia***
Getting along with your in-laws is challenging enough for most people, without throwing the family business into the equation. Dennis Valdez is actively involved in the highly successful publishing business of his in-laws, the Prieto family behind the Philippine Daily Inquirer. He shares anecdotes and life lessons learned from working with his in-laws, and gives his own take on the question of whether or not in-laws should be allowed to work in the family business.

Sibling Revelry: Siblings in Business
Alfredo Go
*President, **LH Paragon Inc.***
Siblings running a family business together: a partnership made in heaven or a disaster waiting to happen? Sibling rivalry has reared its ugly head in many families, but not in the Penshoppe family, as brothers Bernie Liu and Alfredo Go pursue their road map for success. Discover Alfredo Go's views on the positive and negative aspects of working alongside someone he has known his whole life, and how they have managed to make sure that what could potentially become sibling rivalry has turned out instead to be sibling revelry.

Built to Last: Making sure that the family business endures
Juan Sebastian Nepomuceno III
*President, **Nepomuceno Realty Group of Companies***
Just what does it take to make a business last? Is it really inevitable that, as conventional wisdom goes, the third generation should run the family business into the ground? Now well into the third generation of their family and still going strong, the Nepomuceno group of companies based in Central Luzon is living proof that family businesses can be built to last. Mr. Chito Nepomuceno shares the business as well as family practices that have helped them to prosper where other family businesses have fallen apart.

The Art of Letting Go: Selling Off the Family Business
Rudy Arce
*Owner, **Arce Dairy***
When should we step back and say it is time to let go? Many of us can still remember the days when Selecta Ice Cream was the iconic product of the Arce family. What was the family thinking when they decided to sell their business to the RFM group of companies? What decision process did they pursue? Looking back now, what did they do right and what would they have done differently? Mr. Rudy Arce gives us a first-hand look at their painful decision to let go of their family business, and shares with us what he feels are the lessons to be learned from their experience.

Seminar Fee
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Organized by the Ateneo de Manila's John Gokongwei School of Management, the Business Leadership Forum serves as a venue for business leaders and entrepreneurs to share experiences and best practices, and learn from each other's successes and failures. A model for partnership between management educator and business practitioner, it successfully blends theory and practice to offer a well-balanced program for the continued professional growth of the leaders of the Philippine business community.

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Grand Ballroom, Hotel Intercontinental, Makati City July 15, 2005 *Friday 8am 5pm*

BUENSALIDO VIRTUSIO FUENTES NIEVA

PR execs represent RP in congress

CEOS of four of the country's most active public relations agencies will represent the Philippines at the 16th World Congress of the International Public Relations Association to be held on June 26-28 in Istanbul, Turkey.

The four are Joycelyn Buensalido, president of Buensalido & Associates; Eduardo Fuentes, chair, Fuentes Publicity Network Inc.; Renato Nieva, chair Perceptions Inc; and Romeo Virtusio, chair Virtusio Public Relations Inc. and Context Communications International.

All are members of IPRA, the world's largest organization of senior PR practitioners. Nieva and Virtusio are past IPRA council members from the Philippines. Nieva's Perceptions has won several IPRA Golden World Awards for public relations excellence in behalf of its clients while Virtusio has served as juror in the annual GWA.

The four Philippine agencies service a roster of large international clients in the Philippines. The Philippine group will explore possibilities of strengthening relationships with agencies and other organizations overseas.

Resort taps firm to oversee farming

LA FINCA Farm and Country Resort in Lipa, Batangas, gives its lot owners the option of farming on their properties if they have not yet built their homes on them. The 18-hectare site is seeing a growing community that uses the potential of these lots for farming.

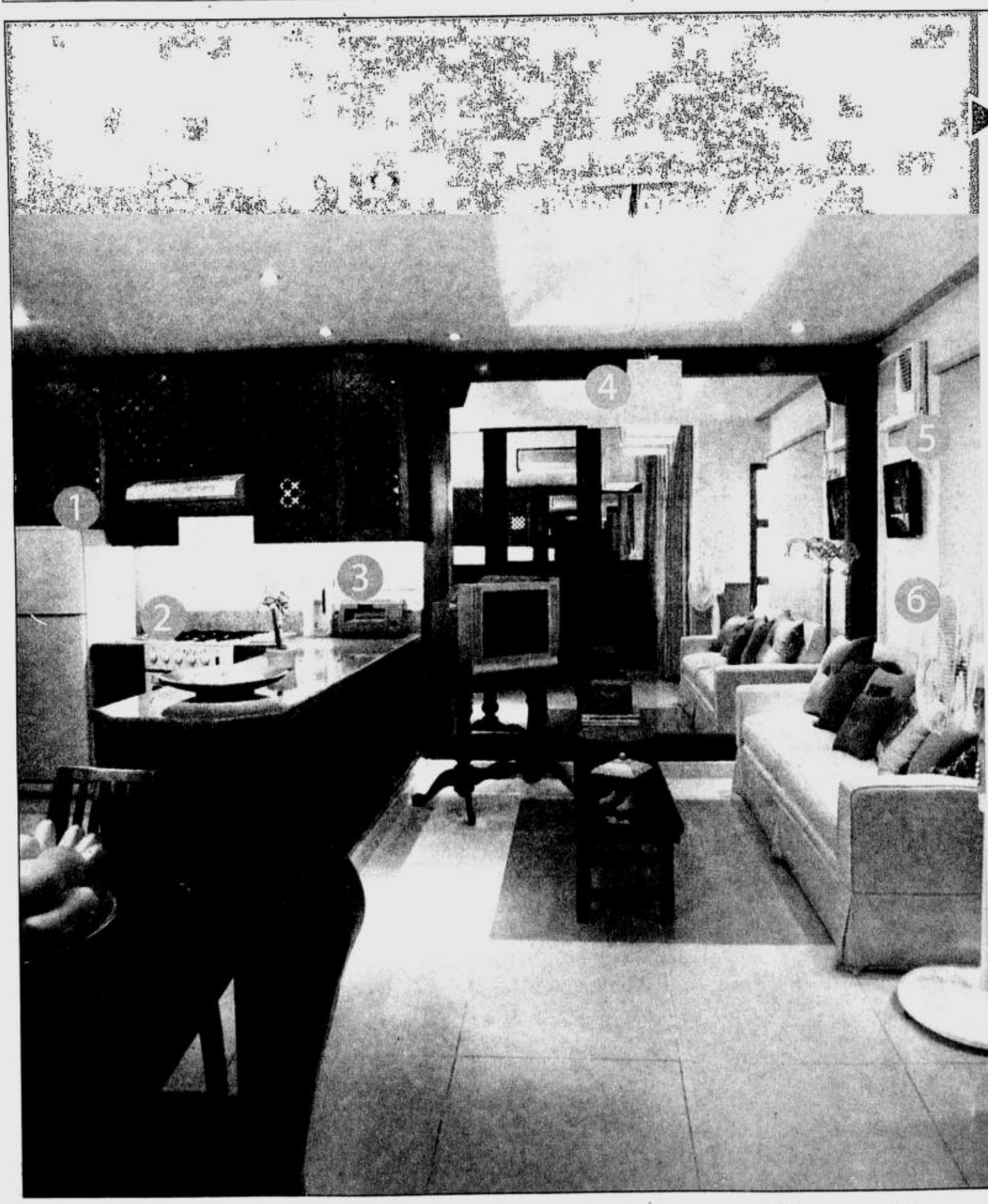
La Finca recently tapped Hydrent Ventures, a company that will oversee serious farming duties for interested parties.

La Finca's Farm committee chair Gilberto Garcia says, "We hired a third party farm management team to do the work for us. Hydrent does institutionalized selling of their lettuce. They grow leafy vegetables in their Tagaytay farm. They went into partnership with hotels; they deliver a variety of their packed salads in Makati. When they saw that we had the same technology, they offered to do the job for us, and to augment our manpower, we hired them. It's really going to be self-sustaining because they manage it themselves. Whatever they produce in your lot, they buy it from you at a certain price. If the lot owners want serious farming, we recommend that they choose the option of getting into Hydrent's program."

ALBERT Stephen "A.S." Tanjangco, director for business development of Hydrent Ventures

Albert Stephen "A.S." Tanjangco, Hydrent's director for business development, explains that the recent tie-up is a rare opportunity that presented itself at the right time. "One of their lot owners is a family friend of one of my partners. He knew we currently have a farm in Tagaytay. He wanted us to replicate what we did there, here in La Finca. Initially he was thinking of doing it solely in this property. But when we discussed it with the management and homeowners' association, we realized that there was an opening and an opportunity for us to be able to make non-performing assets profitable."

La Finca lot owners can enroll in the program, which runs for two years, for a fee. (*For more information, call 889-8588, 889-9999 or fax at 844-4532 or visit www.lafinca.com.ph.*)



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2. Switch off the electric stove during the last minutes of cooking. The remaining heat will allow the food to simmer.
3. Unplug all electrical appliances when not in use.
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Ayala has best waste management system

By Christine A. Gaylican

A MONITORING team led by the World Bank has declared Ayala Foundation as Environment Champion, besting other companies with its effective solid waste management system implemented throughout the Ayala group.

The corporate social responsibility arm of the leading business conglomerate was chosen from among Filipino companies that made it to the final list of individuals and groups cited for their contribution to save the environment.

According to former Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun, who is now part of the World Bank's team of consultants for the annual World Bank Environment Monitor Project, this was the first time that the group was giving out awards to these stewards of the environment.

"This is the first for the Philippine Environment Monitor to acknowledge companies and individuals for their exemplary effort to save the environment," shares Gozun.

She notes that mall owners have a big problem with managing wastes produced by tenants with food establishments, but the Ayala Group and its foundation was able to deal with it well.

Ahead of the pack

By as early as 1996, the Ayala Foundation sought the assistance of the Metropolitan Environment Improvement Program and begun implementing an ecological waste management in four buildings it owned in Makati City.

Building residents were encouraged to segregate their waste at source. As building administrators, the company provided a system for the recovery of biodegradable and nonbiodegradable components of the waste.

Relationships with buyers of the recyclables were formalized during the same year.

Working with environmental nongovernmental organizations, the Ayala Foundation provided orientation and training to the building occupants on how to segregate waste.

"All the tenants of the Ayala Commercial Center were also required to segregate their waste and implement ecological solid waste management even before the law requiring it was passed and contained in the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2001," Gozun points out.

"They are ahead in this league and it is one of the key points that has to be recognized," she adds.

Extending the campaign

By 2001, the campaign has been expanded to other buildings and firms in Makati City's central business district.

Ayala Foundation sought the cooperation of the Management Association of the Philippines, the Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Ayala Center Association to push the project forward.

The collaboration between the Ayala Foundation, MAP and the Makati Commercial Estate Association and the Ayala Center Association was originally to reduce the non-recyclable wastes by 25 percent in two years.

"Nevertheless, this has been exceeded with waste produced decreasing from 80 tons to 24 tons a day," notes Gozun.

As of July 2002, 160 buildings in the Makati business district have been implementing waste segregation and six buildings were doing their own composting.

There is now an average of 34,600 kilograms of recyclable materials produced every month from this collaboration, Gozun adds.

"It is also worth noting that a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) has been set up within the commercial center—a first in the country—where anyone can bring waste materials for composting or recycling," she says.

The Ayala Town Center in Muntinlupa City, the Ayala Center in Cebu City and the Cebu Business Park had all adopted similar waste management practices.

More firms

The World Bank study also acknowledged other private sector activities engaged primarily in ecological solid waste management.

The Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippine is a group of 21 foam polystyrene producers who have set up a recycling plant. The council advocated for localized recycling of packaging wastes and as of the year 2003 has recovered 8,000 cubic meters of materials.

Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines Inc. (CCBPI) manages a major campaign to promote the recovery of non-returnable but recyclable soft drink containers such as cans. These cans are processed into aluminum sheets and tubes, which could be manufactured into other consumer products including mobility aids for people with disabilities.

In 2002, the CCBPI also began recycling plastic bottles. The recycling program recovered 4.1 million aluminum cans and 3 million plastic containers. In a related effort to its subsidiary Coca-Cola Bottlers Philippines, San Miguel Corp. is establishing three recycling facilities for plastic bottles.

SMC has recently entered into an agreement with the DENR and the Department of Education to institutionalize the recovery of plastic bottles from public schools in Metro Manila.

The Pulp and Paper Manufacturers Association is collaborating with various sectors to improve the recovery of wastepaper. Several government agencies have an ongoing wastepaper recycling program with Recyclean Foundation.

The foundation collects the wastepaper based on a pre-agreed schedule and returns paper products needed by these government offices.

The Philippine Recyclers Inc., Bantay Kalikasan and the DENR have launched an advocacy campaign to improve the recovery and recycling of lead-acid batteries.

An estimated 30 percent of the 200,000 lead-acid batteries sold in the country are not properly recycled. With more than 50 companies now actively participating in the campaign, there had been 204 tons of lead-acid batteries collected in 2003, 340 tons in the first three quarters of 2004. These are equivalent to 73,759 liters of sulfuric acid and 590 tons of lead prevented from polluting the environment, the study said.

Four firms show . . .

From page B2-1

"We always want to be transparent about what we do and this really started with my predecessor, Xavier (Loinaz), who was our pioneer in governance efforts," Montinola says.

He adds that BPI always wants to take the lead in making the proper disclosures to investors and regulators.

"Going forward, we will continue to meet the evolving standards on disclosure. We take governance seriously," Montinola adds.

Philippine law, for instance, requires firms to have at least two independent directors and that these directors should constitute at least 20 percent of the board, whichever is fewer.

Petron president Khalid d. Al-Faddagh likewise expresses happiness over the citation for being among the best in corporate governance.

Al-Faddagh says the citation represented the commitment of Petron's board of directors toward governance in service of the shareholders.

"This citation is part of our journey toward good corporate governance that started a couple of years ago. We are extremely happy that we have been recognized for our efforts," he adds.

PLDT likewise embraced corporate governance even before the concept became popular, such that it has moved from mere compliance to using corporate governance standards to reflect its corporate character.

PLDT said in a report to its shareholders that last year, PLDT approved the code of business conduct, which covers everything from relations with shareholders to issues of conflict of interest.

It has also complied with the requirement to have active board committees that will work on nomination, executive compensation, audit and finance.

Ayala Land Inc. likewise put its board committees to work.

"Our audit sub-committee of the board has become much more active, and continually identifies areas where we can improve our control procedures. We have implemented new management decision-making processes which are more stringent and rigorous. The strategic decisions regarding business direction, risk exposure, personnel movements, and the like are discussed thoroughly at ex-

AL FADDAGH

com and board sessions," says ALI president Jaime Ayala.

"We strictly implement new accounting guidelines, and have made our reporting even more conservative in terms of how we recognize revenues and book expenses. Still, there is more we can do, and we are continuously looking at our procedures, systems, and behaviors to see how we can improve," Ayala adds.

Estanislao says these four companies have set a model that other listed firms should emulate.

It does take a lot of work and commitment to get companies to meet and, more importantly, live up to the provisions of good corporate governance.

But in the end, listed firms have no choice but to comply. For even if they do not believe in it, foreign investors do.

It is these investors who will reward firms with good corporate governance by paying a higher price for the stock, and punish those who fail in that department by striking them out of their portfolio.

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DR. NED ROBERTO, PhD is one of Asia's leading authorities on marketing. He is a much sought after consultant, speaker, author, and educator. He has taught at De La Salle University in Manila, Northwestern University in Chicago and INSEAD in France. He was professor of International Marketing at the Asian Institute of Management for 29 years. In 1983, he received the Philippine Marketing Association's Agora Award for Marketing Education, and in 2004, he was awarded the 1st Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Marketing Educators.

Dr. Roberto has consulted and conducted in-house seminars for Fortune 500 companies in the U.S., Europe, and Asia such as Procter & Gamble, Citibank, McCann-Erickson, Nestle, AC Nielsen, etc. He is the author (with Philip Kotler) of Social Marketing, which has been translated into seven languages, as well as the best-selling User-Friendly Marketing Research and several other books and countless papers on marketing.

Dr. Roberto earned his MBA and PhD in Marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Business.

PDI-06-27-05

Look and listen

A LEADER'S WAY

John C. Maxwell

THE MAIN boardroom at my office is an odd shape. The large conference table in the room was designed for the space, which means that it's also an odd shape.

Architecturally speaking, the table is a beautiful piece of furniture. The craftsmanship that went into it is readily apparent. And I suppose it makes good use of the space in the room.

But the first time I saw it, I knew immediately that a leader didn't build it.

Let me explain.

When I sit in a meeting where important conversations are taking place and decisions are being made, I want to see every one of the people visually. I want them in front of me. I want to see their eyes. I want to watch their actions. I want to read their body language.

At this table, I can't do that.

If I look to the left when seated at the table, I see the back of somebody's head. That drives me absolutely crazy in meetings because I can't see that person's facial expressions. The design of the table makes it impossible for me to engage in an activity that is critical to successful leadership: observation.

In the landmark business tome, "In Search of Excellence," Tom Peters and Robert Waterman addressed this when they wrote about "management by walking around."

Their point was that the best managers don't lead by staying holed up in their offices. They walk around. They see what's happening. They take the temperature of their organizations by observing their people at work.

This is what legendary basketball coach John Wooden did to help his players improve their shooting percentages.

"I observed [as they practiced], I watched them," he said. "And when I found their spot, I went out there and drew a circle and said, 'This is where you shoot from; this is where you make your shots.'"

Wooden wasn't "leading" as he did this. He wasn't casting a vision or implementing a strategy. He was simply watching. But what he observed enabled him to help his players achieve their full potential, which is what leadership is all about.

When it comes to bringing out the best in others, observation goes hand in hand with another key leadership function: listening.

To illustrate this, I'm going to draw from the experience of Capt. Michael Abrashoff, former commander of the highly acclaimed USS Benfold.

In his excellent book, "It's Your Ship," Abrashoff tells how listening "aggressively" helped him transform the worst ship in the Pacific fleet into the top ship in the entire Navy.

"It didn't take me long," he writes, "to realize that my young crew was smart, talented, and full of good ideas that frequently came to nothing because no one in charge had ever listened to them ... I decided that my job was to listen aggressively and to pick up every good idea the crew had for improving the ship's operation."

"Some traditionalists might consider this heresy, but it actually is just common sense," Abrashoff continues. "After all, the people who do the nuts-and-bolts work on the ship constantly see things that the officers don't. It seemed to me only prudent for the captain to work hard at seeing the ship through the crew's eyes."

I love that last statement.

Great leaders are unique because they have the ability to see farther and broader and bigger than their people. At the same time, however, they also have the ability to see through the eyes of their people. I've often said that the best leaders have two sets of eyes—they have leaders' eyes and they have followers' eyes. And you develop followers' eyes by doing exactly what I've been writing about—observing and listening aggressively.

You may have never seen or heard the words listen and aggressive used together. I hadn't before I read Abrashoff's book. I've heard of aggressive talkers and aggressive doers, but never aggressive listeners.

And yet, it's a fitting way to describe the kind of listening that enhances productivity and builds a culture of empowerment.

When you listen aggressively, you're actively engaged in the conversation. You're not just hearing words; you're reading all the signs I wish I could see when I'm sitting at our odd-shaped conference table—body language, facial expressions, etc.

As a result, you absorb far more than you would if you were distracted or in a hurry. You also send a strong message that you value the person with whom you're communicating.

Buckminster Fuller, the 20th century inventor, mathematician and futurist, once noted that, "By doing nothing more than observing and acting upon the obvious, a person can change the world."

Your goal might not be to change the entire world, but you can make a positive impact in your area of influence by closely observing and aggressively listening to your people.

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Living up to higher standards

From page B2-2

became the CEO of Abbott, he said: "Good is not good enough. I want to find out what is holding back Abbott to becoming a great company."

It was obvious George Cain was one of those who kept raising standards.

MAP CEO conference

On Oct. 19 at the Makati Shangri-la Hotel, there will be a rare opportunity to hear "Change Masters"—sterling examples of leaders who not only raised standards but also reinvented their companies, their products, their processes, their cultures, their industries, themselves.

Among the speakers are Polly Nazareno, Smart CEO, Gabby Lopez, ABS-CBN chair, Jim Davis, global chief marketing officer, SAS Institute (most recently ranked No. 8 in the Fortune 100 Best Companies To Work For), Ramon del Rosario Jr., Phinma president, Daniel Moran, Red Ribbon president, Do Ejercito, Unilab president, Tessie Sy-Coson, SM Group president (Fortune's No. 47 Most Powerful Women).

For more information on the conference, please call the MAP secretariat at 751-1151 to 54, or e-mail: sixsigma@pldtdsl.net. Don't miss it!

(The author is co-chair of the MAP CEO conference committee and managing consultant and CEO of Six Sigma Consulting. Feedback at mapsec@globenet.com.ph)

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INFOTECH

Editor Leo Magno

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Is Moore's Law still relevant in the optical age?

By Leo Magno

FORTY years ago in 1965, Intel co-founder Gordon Moore observed that his engineering team had been able to make transistors smaller and fit roughly twice as many on an integrated circuit each year for the past several years.

Moore wrote a now-legendary article titled "Cramming more components onto integrated circuits" in the April 19, 1965 issue of Electronics Magazine, while he was still with Fairchild Semiconductor. Moore and Fairchild co-founder Robert Noyce eventually left the company to establish NM Electronics which became known as Intel in 1968.

In the article, Moore stated that the number of transistors on a chip would roughly double every two years, not 18 to 24 months as it is now generally known.

"Transistor doubling in 18 to 24 months was something I never said," Moore quipped in a taped interview shown to the press. The projections were merely adjusted later on based on the pace of technology and industry developments, he said.

"It just became a self-fulfilling prophecy as people tried to keep up with it," he said.

But Moore's prediction, which eventually became known as Moore's Law, holds true till today even though Moore himself had predicted that it would only be relevant for about a decade from 1965.

Forty years later, Intel has grown to become a company with $34.2 billion in revenues for 2004, the highest the company has ever recorded. It now makes the Itanium 2 chips with 592 million transistors, compared to the 4004 chip back in 1971 which only had 2,300 transistors. Intel processors dominate the personal computer space with 81.7-percent market share. The last major holdover in the personal computing space, Apple Computer which uses the PowerPC chips from IBM, has announced it is switching to Intel chips starting 2006.

In short, Intel is now the biggest processor and platform company in the world, and arguably has the power, for right or for wrong, to dictate the next direction of computing based on its technology.

Physical limit

Which is why it is important to see where Intel is headed with Moore's Law and for how long it would continue to apply. For as transistors become smaller and more of them are crammed into an integrated circuit, we have to realize that no physical thing can continue to get smaller exponentially. As you move to the granular and molecular level of matter, there's a point where Moore's Law simply won't apply anymore.

Moore himself admitted this in the taped interview.

"At .05 microns, it looks like we're approaching the limit," Moore said in the interview. "At the rate we're going, in about 10 years, I think we're going to reach the physical limit and making things smaller won't work anymore."

A micron is a metric unit equivalent to one-millionth of a meter. To put this in perspective, the diameter of a human hair is about 100 microns, fine hair is about 50 microns. Meanwhile, a nanometer is equal to one-billionth of a meter. The semiconductor industry is now using the nanometer instead of microns because conversion is easier as it eliminates the need for decimals. For example, .05 microns is equal to 50 nanometers.

Thus, Moore's comment about .05 microns or 50 nanometers "approaching the limit" is dangerously close to Intel's 65-nanometer technology announced August 2004.

So Moore has set a 10-year deadline for his own law. But then again, it must be remembered that in 1965 he also said his law would be applicable only for the next 10 years, and yet here we are.

Microprocessor	Year of Introduction	Transistors
4004	1971	2,300
8008	1972	2,500
8080	1974	4,500
8086	1978	29,000
Intel286	1982	134,000
Intel386™ processor	1985	275,000
Intel486™ processor	1989	1,200,000
Intel® Pentium® processor	1993	3,100,000
Intel® Pentium® II processor	1997	7,500,000
Intel® Pentium® III processor	1999	9,500,000
Intel® Pentium® 4 processor	2000	42,000,000
Intel® Itanium® processor	2001	25,000,000
Intel® Itanium® 2 processor	2003	220,000,000
Intel® Itanium® 2 processor (9MB cache)	2004	592,000,000

CHART shows steady increase of transistors in computer chips as the years progress

A YOUNG Moore didn't know a law of computing would be named after him. "It just became a self-fulfilling prophecy," he said.

Chips 101

But first, what does this all mean?

Cramming transistors into an integrated circuit has everything to do with how we use computers today. A computer is run by a central processing unit (CPU), or down to the base level is defined as a processor or a "chip." A chip consists of transistors integrated into circuits. The transistors function as "on" and "off" switches, allowing electrical current to either flow through the circuit or be blocked. These make possible the presence or absence of a signal, a "one" or a "zero," which comprise the binary units of computers. The binary digits are grouped in eight, which comprise a byte (and on to kilobytes, megabytes, gigabytes and so on). So through the chip, software commands—those digital streams of ones and zeroes—are processed.

To do this, you need some material through which electricity can flow, and at the same time allow it to be blocked. Materials through which electricity flows are called conductors, and the opposite of this are called insulators. For computing purposes based on the explanation in the previous paragraph, you need a material in-between conductors and insulators. These are called semiconductors.

Geranium is one type of semiconductor, but it has a problem with reversing electrical current flow. Enter silicon. Silicon is a natural semiconductor that is less reactive than carbon and more stable than germanium. Most of all, it is the second most abundant element in the Earth's crust, making up 25.7 percent of it by weight. Silicon is found in clay, feldspar, granite, quartz and good old sand. Aside from the fact that beaches won't look good without sand, silicon's abundance makes it perfect for mass production of such materials as glass and silicon wafers from which computer chips are produced.

Thus, as steel was the revolutionary material of the mechanical age, silicon is the material of the information age.

Faster processing

So why is it important to have more and smaller transistors in a chip as Moore predicted? More transistors obviously help to make more computational processing of the ones and zeroes explained earlier. But more important, because electricity travels a shorter distance in smaller transistors that turn electric currents on and off, smaller transistors mean faster chips. It would take a person about 25,000 years to turn a light switch on and off 1.5 trillion times, assuming you can find a person stupid enough to do the task and who can live as long as 25,000 years. However, today's processors can do the task several times each second, especially as Intel approaches a billion transistors per chip.

But as inconceivably fast as this sounds, high-speed and high-bandwidth data transfer in long-haul telecommunications applications are impeded by limitations of copper infrastructure, or the lines still used by most telephone networks. Most people conceive of this as an Internet connection via Digital Subscriber Lines (DSL) which still use the phone companies' copper wires. Other emerging non-copper alternatives are Wi-Max or wireless broadband and fiber optics. Intel is advancing research in both Wi-Max and optical technology, yet it is the latter wherein the company has announced significant breakthroughs.

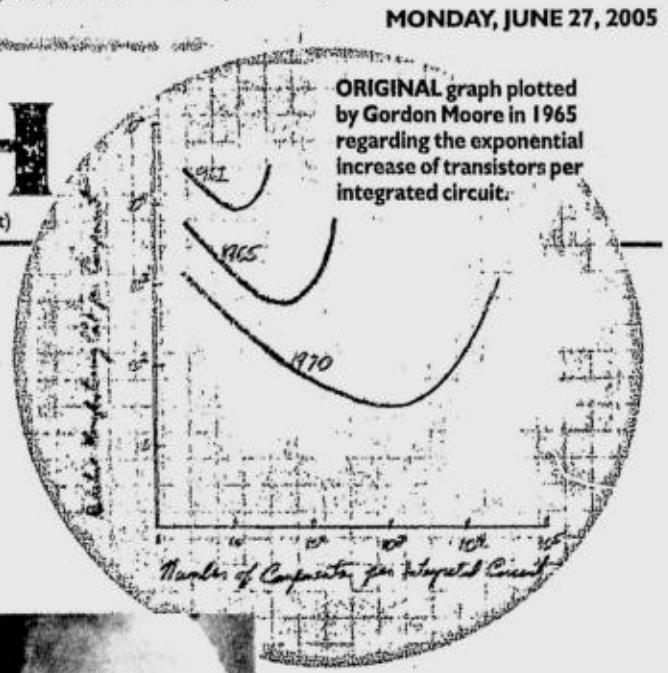
In long-haul transfers, copper technology is becoming bandwidth-limited. The problem is electromagnetic interference (EMI). As copper interconnects reach higher and higher speeds, EMI arises. Remember the earlier explanation on electronic currents sending on-and-off signals through transistors? Electrons react to EMI. When you use light, this problem does not arise because photons do not interfere with one another.

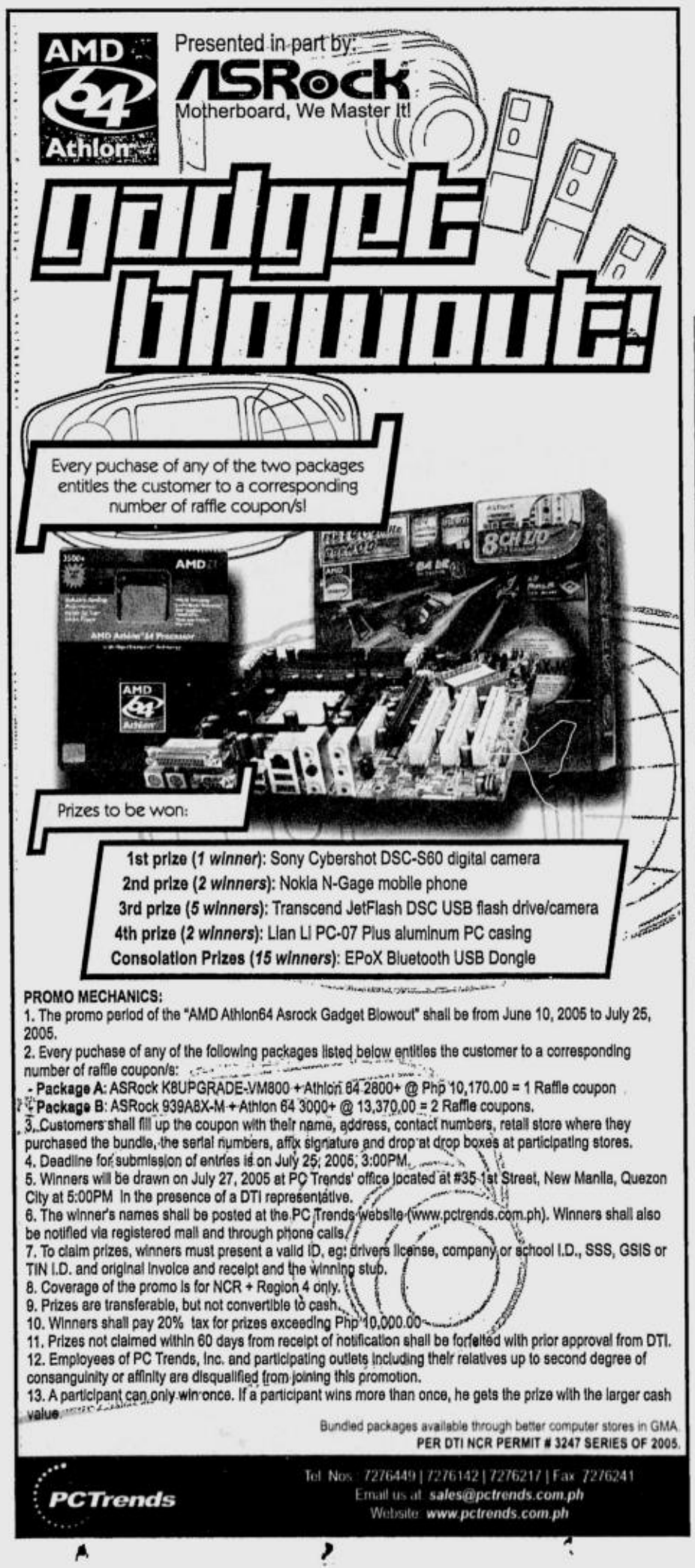
Another is the highway itself. Although fiber optic cables are being laid out, the computers on each end of the optical wires are still based on the current electronic circuits.

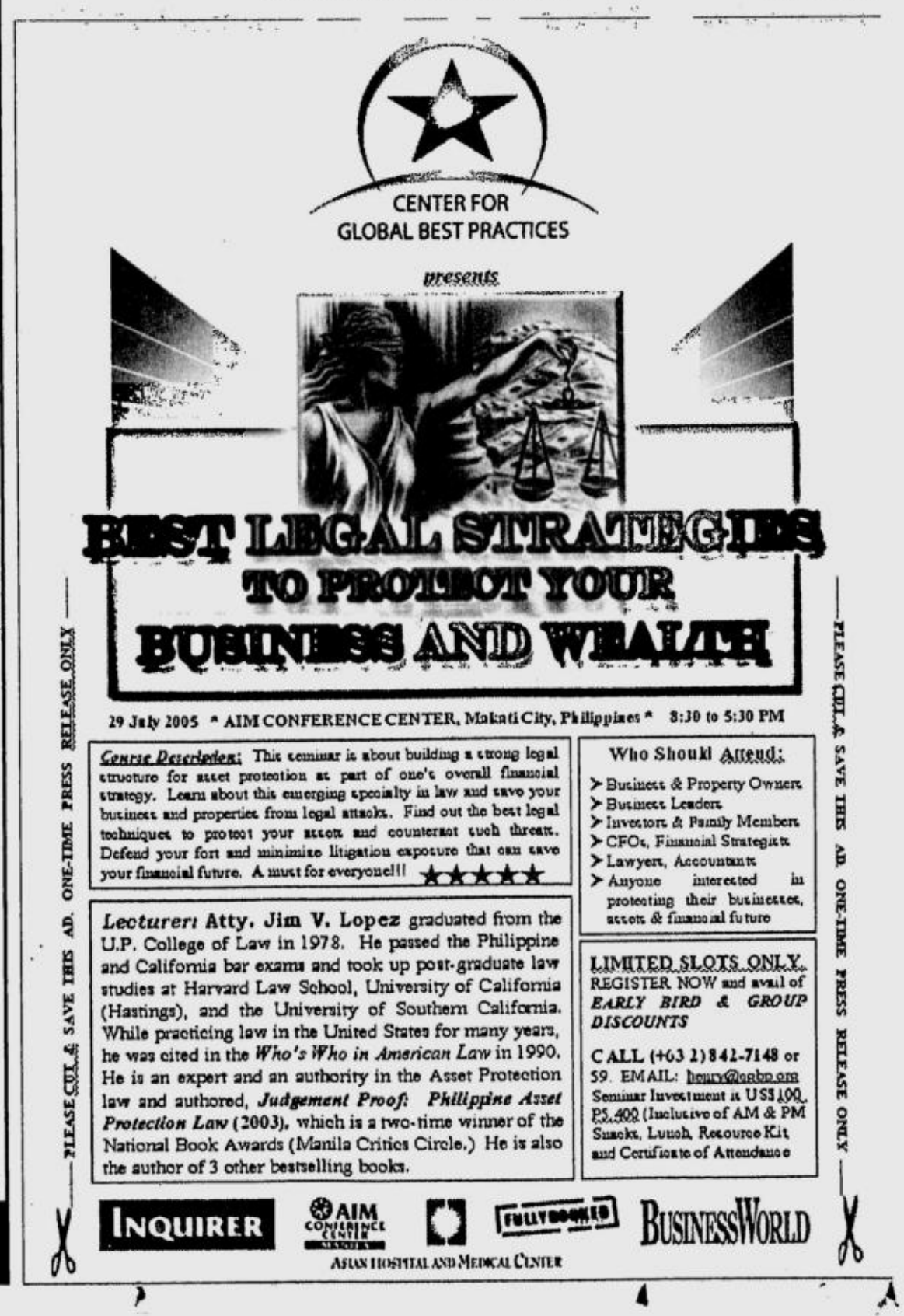
The challenge now is how to make optical communications from end-to-end practical, affordable and ubiquitous, not just for long-haul wide area networks but also for smaller local area networks, chip-to-chip interconnects and ultimately down to the on-chip level or to the processor itself.

Since silicon is an abundant material

IS MOORE'S/ B2-7







Is Moore's Law . . .

From page B2-6

which makes computing affordable, practical optical communications can be achieved by marrying silicon technology with optics.

Silicon photonics

Enter silicon photonics.

Photonics or the use of light to process data offers much greater bandwidth than traditional copper networks and can carry multiple signals simultaneously without interference. Unfortunately, today's commercial photonic devices are made from exotic materials such as indium phosphide and gallium arsenide. This makes them difficult to manufacture and assemble, and consequently expensive. This high cost limits the use of traditional photonic devices to special applications such as long-haul telecommunications and wide area networks.

The challenge is to merge optical computing while using the widely available silicon—which does not emit light efficiently—for current semiconductor processing technology so that mass-scale would be achieved for lower manufacturing costs and ultimately, lower prices for consumers.

Intel is researching ways to "siliconize" photonics and use the company's volume manufacturing to optical communications. The goal is to make integrated, inexpensive photonic devices out of silicon instead of the exotic materials used today. By using standard manufacturing processes in an existing fabrication plant, Intel researchers have removed a significant cost barrier in photonics. The next step is integrating entire photonic devices on a chip with digital intelligence. This should pave the way to produce photonics products based on silicon, or computers which use optical technology instead of the current electronic circuits.

On Feb. 17, 2005, scientists at Intel made the first all-silicon laser, paving the way toward the marriage of the two technologies discussed earlier. Using silicon-based components, amplified light or laser was achieved continuously. With a modulator, data can be encoded onto the light beam and demodulated at the other end, resulting in fast and lossless data transfer and a revolutionary new way of processing and sending data with the use of light energy.

"We expect products (based on silicon photonics) to become available within the decade," said Victor Krutul, manager of photonics technology strategy at Intel.

Krutul sees optics-based computers to be developed around the server market first, in long-haul telecommunications transfer of pure optical data from source to medium (fiber optics) to receiver (another silicon photonics-based server). Then he sees chip-to-chip connectivity and products around this space.

"Over time, you will see silicon photonics used to connect peripherals like disk drives and, when it becomes more affordable, on-chip data processing in PCs," he said.

Moore's Law redux

This takes computing a whole generation further, from electronic circuits from which Moore derived his observation of transistor density increase. Today, with the use of light or optical technology, data processing and transfer—or computing in general—will become faster.

But with silicon photonics already fast as it is, will the future speed of processors still be determined by how fast the number of transistors double every year? Or will it be determined by how much light is multiplexed in a single fiber? In other words, will Moore's Law still be relevant in the optical age of computing as opposed to the electronic age?

Whichever direction technology takes us, it appears that the future will be blindingly bright because it will be using light.

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JS Unitrade upgrades with Microsoft Business Solutions

JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc., a nationwide distributor of personal care brands EQ & EQ Dry, Prokids, Dr.P, Caress and Charmee, has recently upgraded its accounting and distribution process with Microsoft Business Solutions Solomon. The new system was provided and implemented by Infosoft International Solutions, a certified Microsoft Partner.

"We decided to invest on Microsoft technology for its ability to quickly adapt to our existing processes and for its ease-of-use. Microsoft Solomon allowed us to dramatically improve the accounting and distribution process in a cost-effective way," said Edwin Aguilar, Associate IT Manager of JS Unitrade Merchandise, Inc.

Known as the "Hygiene Professionals", JS Unitrade carries Asian-made disposable baby diapers, adult diapers and under sheets, panty liners and sanitary pads, baby wipes, tissues, cotton swabs and cotton balls. The company's nationwide operations are run by 150 employees. Satellite offices that manage regional distribution are established in Cebu, Cagayan de Oro, Cavite, Bulacan and Pasig.

Given the huge, and steadily growing, volume of distribution, JS Unitrade realized that it could not fully rely on a simple and traditional accounts receivable invoicing system. The company saw that its business processes needed to be more sophisticated to match growth. In particular, accounting and financial processes needed streamlining to be able to accommodate the company's development.

Microsoft Business Solutions Solomon is built on a flexible, Windows-based architecture and provides an intuitive user interface that easily adapts to a company's business requirements. The modular system allows the company to add or subtract features based on what they need. JS Unitrade implemented many of the features of Solomon's financial and distribution modules, which features general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, currency manager, purchasing, order management, and inventory. Microsoft SQL Server technologies add support to JS Unitrade's data management requirements.

"We are now better able to track the status of sales reports and other events. Coordinating with the distributing offices outside Manila is faster, more efficient, and less prone to errors," Aguilar pointed out.

Aguilar added that existing processes were not hampered as Microsoft Business Solutions Solomon allows them to customize the system to reflect their tasks and accept specific data. As Solomon further integrates accounting with other aspects of the business, the company employees are no longer bogged down with data re-entry. Reports are easier to generate and data are more accurate.

Management now can easily monitor the status of the company's financials, as the new system allows them to view up-to-date reports and even invoices that are in progress. Reports given to management can be customized to highlight specific information based on business needs. Learning more about a retailer or how a brand is moving in a particular area is just a click away.

The ability to get a clearer picture gives management more control over financial activities. Instead of mulling over processes, they can now focus more on creating strategic directions and business development.

According to Aguilar, "the company took a big step from relying on crude, simple solutions to one that is more sophisticated, faster and efficient. The real benefit we see in this decision is an improvement of not just the accounting department, but of the entire business."

ADVT.

Microsoft

YOU MAY NOT HAVE TIME TO STUDY THE TCO OF WINDOWS AND "FREE SOFTWARE", BUT THE YANKEE GROUP DOES.

"For midsized and large organizations, a significant 'free software' deployment will neither be free nor easily accomplished. In fact, respondents at large organizations reported that a wholesale switch to 'free software' from Windows® or Unix would significantly increase TCO for the foreseeable future."

–Laura DiDio, The Yankee Group, April 2004 "Free Software", Unix, and Windows TCO Comparison

The Yankee Group, a global research and consulting firm, concluded that a significant switch to "free software" from Windows or Unix could cost three to four times as much without delivering tangibly better performance or business value. These findings are based on a non-sponsored worldwide survey of 1,000 IT administrators and C-level executives in midsized and large enterprises.

To get the full study, visit **microsoft.com/getthefacts**

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Microsoft Windows Server System

BUSINESS*Monday*

RP TEAM members Karlo Mortel, Alexis Ng, Aaron Ho with Jollibee Foods Corp. CEO Tony Tan Caktiong

Entrepreneurial ideas from twentysomethings

The HSBC Young IT Entrepreneur Awards brings out the youth's creativity

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

HONG KONG—HSBC Asia Pacific chair Vincent Cheng best put it: "What was I doing when I was in my 20s? Definitely not this."

He was referring to the impressive performance of four groups of students in their 20s who participated in the first regional competition of the HSBC Young IT Entrepreneur Awards held in this former British colony recently.

Teams from four countries—the Philippines, Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong—presented business ideas with information technology application.

The Philippine team composed of Aaron Jarveen Ho, Karlo Mortel and Steven Alexis Ng—from the Ateneo de Manila University—won Best in Presentation.

The Philippine team's idea was Emusikero—an online retailer that allows Filipino music lovers to quickly find, purchase and download legitimate music from mainstream and independent Filipino singers to share their music with fellow *kababayans* in North America through the Internet.

It was hard to imagine the presenters were college students. They were able to mix creativity and business savvy in the presentation, which started off with images and statistics of Filipinos abroad, their lifestyles, their desires. This, while a Filipino song played in the background.

The members of the team then took turns presenting the business and marketing plans and supporting data to prove the viability of the project.

But it was the Hong Kong team which won the plum award—Best of the Best—with their M.I.D idea of providing merchants with a special software system that replaces merchandise or discount cards and enables retail businesses to manage their customer loyalty programs more efficiently.

It lost the top award, but the Philippine team may have the most viable project as it is set to be implemented in a few months' time.

"It was a close fight," said Cheng, who was a judge in the awards. He vowed to continue the five-year competition.

A total of 1,700 students participated, and 664 business cases were submitted from the four countries during this year's competition.

"The more countries that participate, the better," Cheng says.

He admits however that one of the barriers is the ability of the students to speak in English. Presentations are done in English.

Cheng says the HSBC Young IT Entrepreneur Awards are designed to allow participants to acquire practical business knowledge, including business planning and presentation skills. It was the second time the Philippines participated in the competition, which started five years ago in Hong Kong.

HSBC slowly expanded it to include other countries in the region.

Jollibee Foods Corp. chair and CEO Tony Tan Caktiong, who was one of the judges, said all the teams got high scores. He said he too was impressed with the ideas presented and the way the teams "sold" their ideas.

Malaysia's idea is a biochip implantation and monitoring system or BIMS. Under the plan, a biochip is placed in the human body to monitor key health indicators.

Thailand's idea is called Mr. Matchup which is an application on mobile devices and PCs that matches consumer needs with companies' offerings using technology such as the Internet, GPRS, Bluetooth and wireless LAN.

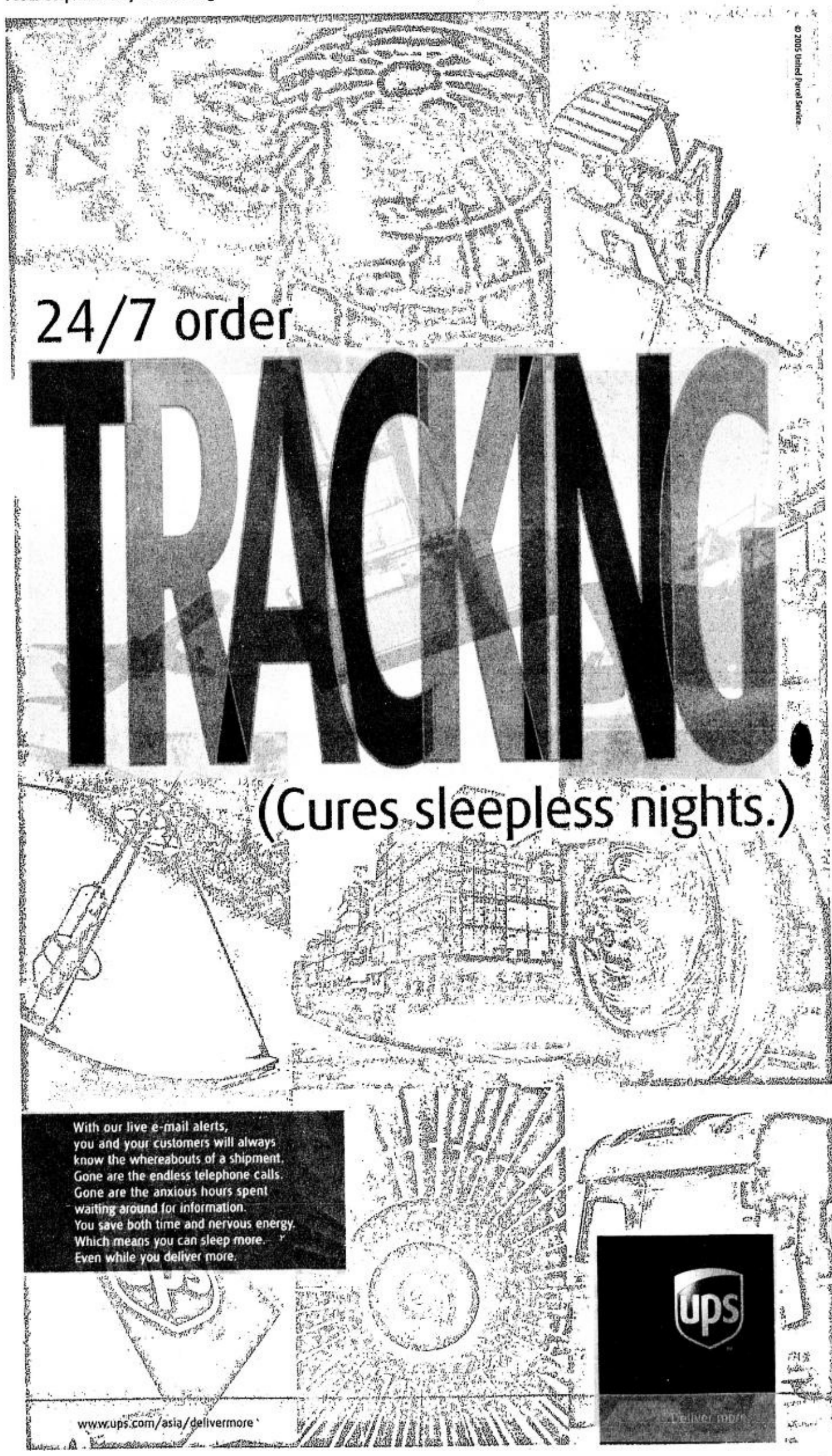
The other judges were Uthai Tanlamai, professor of Information Sytems at the Chulalongkorn University and Harres Tan, chair of Association of Computer and Multimedia Industry of Malaysia.

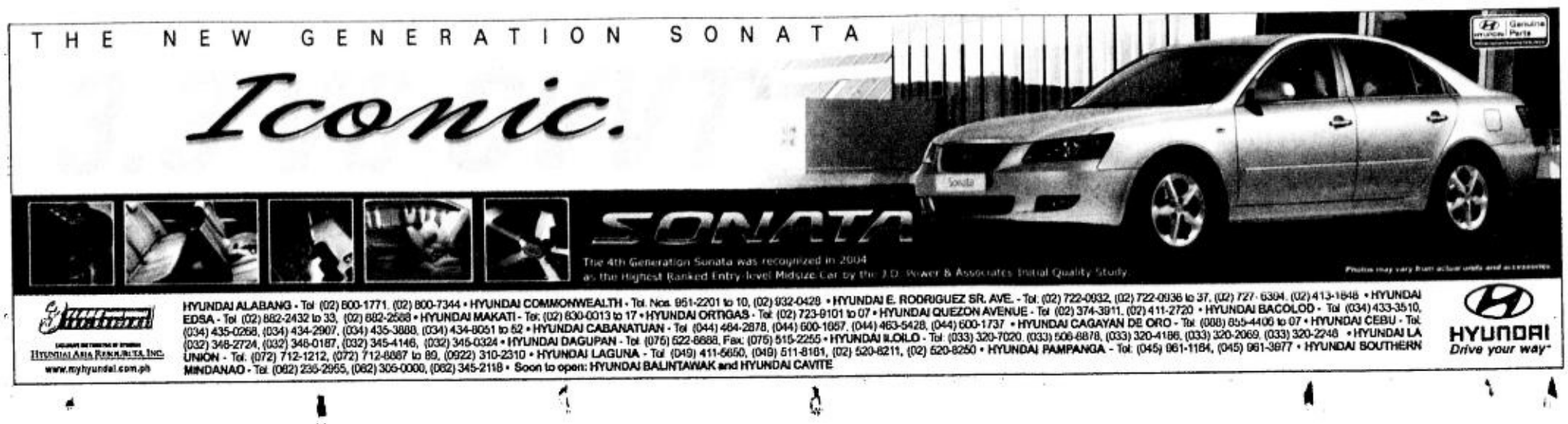
Criteria included commercial viability, presentation, business idea, creativity, technological application.

The four teams also went on a one-week Journey of Future Entrepreneurship at the University of Washington in Seattle, USA to learn about the latest IT developments, visit leading companies and find out more about the entrepreneurial skills of young Americans.

REGIONAL grand finals judges: Harres Tan (Malaysia), Vincent Cheng, Tony Tan Caktiong (Philippines), Dr. Uthai Tanlamai (Thailand)

HSBC Asia Pacific chair Vincent Cheng presented the Philippine team (Aaron Ho, Alexis Ng, Karlo Mortel) with the Best Presentation Award.





BUSINESS Monday

E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

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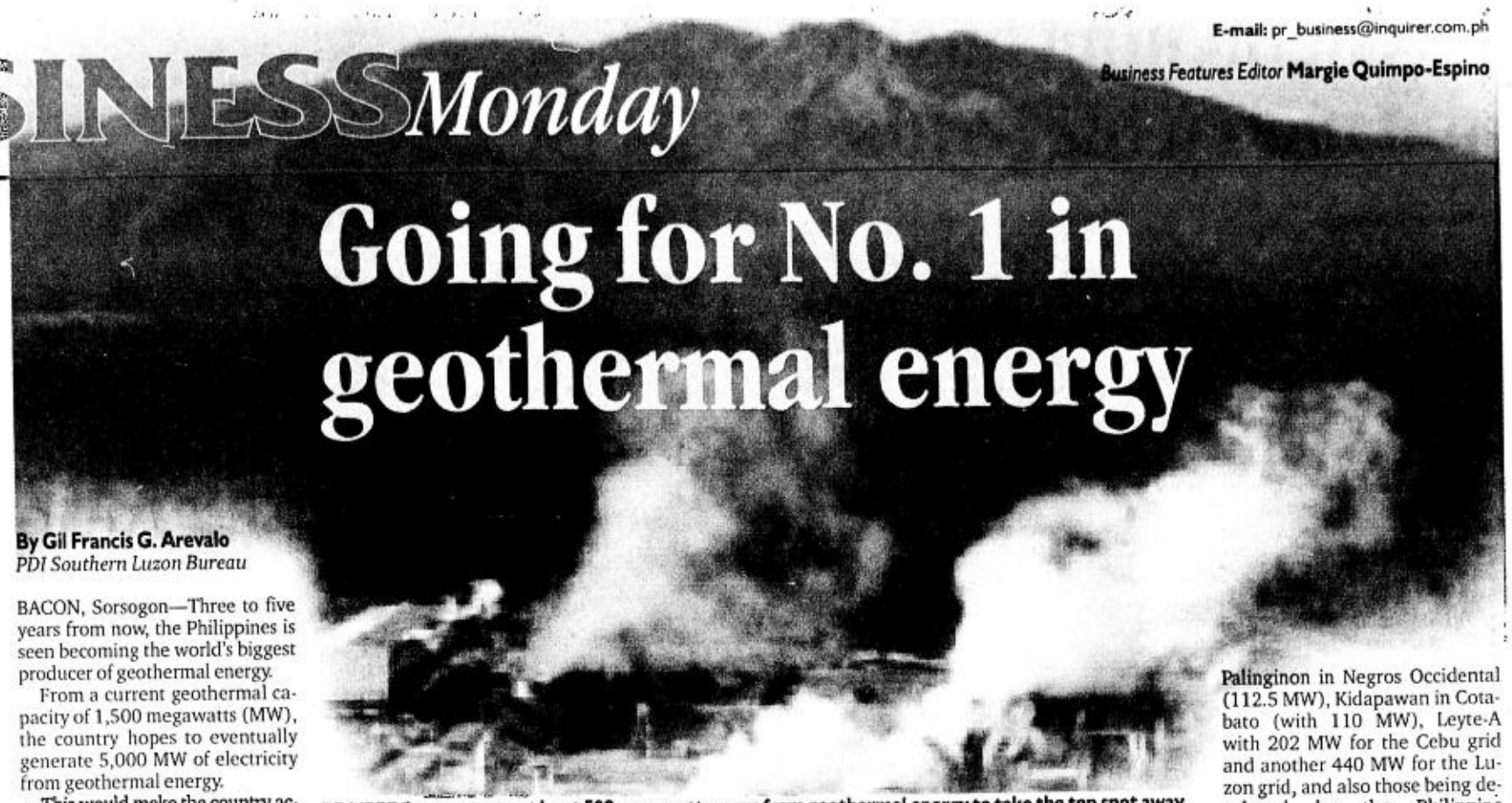
Going for No. 1 in geothermal energy



RP NEEDS to generate at least 500 megawatts more from geothermal energy to take the top spot away from the United States.

By Gil Francis G. Arevalo
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BACON, Sorsogon—Three to five years from now, the Philippines is seen becoming the world's biggest producer of geothermal energy.

From a current geothermal capacity of 1,500 megawatts (MW), the country hopes to eventually generate 5,000 MW of electricity from geothermal energy.

This would make the country account for more than half of the world's total geothermal energy production of 7,297 MW, according to Liberato Virata, newly appointed resident manager of the Philippine National Oil Company-Energy Development Corp. (PNOC-EDC) Bacon-Manito geothermal plant here.

Virata tells the INQUIRER that the country needs to generate 500 MW to 700 MW more from geothermal energy to take the number 1 spot away from United States. The US currently produces more than 2,000 megawatts from geothermal energy.

"Right now the Philippines is the second largest producer of the said energy for electricity in the world. This is the very reason why the PNOC-EDC is very much determined to further develop all explored geothermal areas all over the country in order for us to further maximize the whole percentage of potential geothermal energy. It can be noted that only about 25 percent of total megawatts capacity at present are being harnessed," he says.

Among those geothermal areas that have been continuously developed are some areas in Bac-Man, northern Negros geothermal field in Negros Occidental with a capacity of at least 40 MW or more, Cabalian in Southern Leyte with 110 MW and Mt. Labo in Camarines Norte with a potential 120 MW.

"All of these can be developed in the next three to five years, and then by that time, the Philippines could be already the number one," Virata says.

He further discloses that in Bac-Man alone, the PNOC-EDC was enthusiastic about harnessing 100-150 MW of power in Tanawon, Sorsogon and Tayabon, Manito.

But he admits that to tap the said areas, they need investors or at least loans from banks that continue to support PNOC's cause.

The Tanawon project is projected to generate 40-70 MW, which approximately costs P5.2 billion, while the Tayabon is said to have enough geothermal reserves to generate 30-60 MW of electricity.

"Based on our recent assessment, Bac-Man as one of the consistent and promising PNOC-EDC own geothermal projects in the country that can generate up to 300-350 MW at most. But at this point in time we need to rehabilitate some of the power plants of Napocor here, which will take from six months to one year to begin the exploration for potential commercially viable energy resource," he adds.

The Bac-Man geothermal reservation area was established through the Presidential Proclamation No. 2036-A issued in November 1980. It includes part of the municipalities of Sorsogon, Bacon and Castilla in Sorsogon province and Manito in Albay province.

PNOC operates the steam field and supplies steam to the 150 MW power plants of Napocor that are connected to the Luzon grid. Its operation began in 1977.

In 1994, the on-line continuous steam purity monitoring system was perfected in Bac-Man and is the only one of its kind.

And in 1998, the silica deposition inhibitor geogard SX was developed and used commercially in Bac-Man, the only successful silica inhibitor in use in the world.

The Department of Energy has once again stressed that geothermal energy was the future of the country's energy resources.

Aside from being cheap, it seems it is sustainable because of the reservoir and environmental management programs that are implemented to ensure the sustainability of the geothermal field for the benefit of the present and coming generations.

The country has eight geothermal fields that have been operating since 1979.

These include geothermal plants developed by PNOC-EDC such as the Tongonan geothermal plant in Leyte (112.5 MW), Palinginon in Negros Occidental (112.5 MW), Kidapawan in Cotabato (with 110 MW), Leyte-A with 202 MW for the Cebu grid and another 440 MW for the Luzon grid, and also those being developed by the Philippine Geothermal Inc. such as Tiwi in Albay (with 330 MW) and Makban in Laguna (with 425.7 MW).

In a statement, the PNOC-EDC said it would like to pattern the operations of different potential geothermal energy sources in the country after the successful geothermal operations in Lardello, Italy for, since its pioneering operation in 1904, its geothermal field is still operating and is a favorite tourist attraction.

"Technically and scientifically speaking the life-span of geothermal energy in the country is about 25-50 years. But we really hope that this could be sustainable even up to 100 or more years. For, aside from the royalties to be paid among the stakeholders, it's proven that most of the geothermal plants managed by PNOC-EDC have proven to be very helpful in any social and community livelihood projects and reforestation of trees and other concern areas."

SWEAT FROM THE BROW, THE MARK OF A REAL HERO

Being a hero doesn't exactly mean dying in battle for the sake of your motherland. The same can be said of the man whose hands are blistered from hard work and who faithfully endures being away from his loved ones as long as he spends himself in a worthy cause--contributing to a strong and stable nation.

For him, there is a well-seasoned bank that knows the value of hard work and savings. It exists not only for the veterans who fought valiantly in the war but for ordinary everyday heroes who fight just as bravely.

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Strengthening business and managing skills

By Marlet D. Salazar

THE CORPORATE world is getting even more competitive with the entry of more skilled managers and well-informed entrepreneurs.

Discovering that understanding the ins and outs of a business may not be enough to run a successful company, many professionals opt to take further studies and see how the world has changed since they earned their undergraduate degrees.

A masters degree gives an edge to many professionals not only in climbing the corporate ladder, but also in making themselves more effective in their own organization.

According to Prof. Ricky Lim, Associate Dean of the Washington Sycip Graduate School of Business of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), MBAs train managers on corporate leadership, which makes them better organizers.

For entrepreneurs, earning profits may be the main objective, but knowing how to increase that will also take some skills.

The AIM's Master in Entrepreneur program enhances businessmen's understanding of the industry and how to effectively lead their own company.

In AIM's "One-Day MBA," two professors gave a glimpse of the business world to a number of professionals through case studies, a method often used in the institute.

This method enables students to voice their ideas and prepare to be challenged by their fellow students.

"The case method (or sharing of ideas) is an effective preparation for the real world. It opens up and develops possibilities for professionals, allowing them to continuously think and analyze," Prof. Lim said.

LIM

MBA in a nutshell

Prof. Maurino Bolante, who has been teaching courses in the Master in Business Administration (MBA) program of AIM, gave attendees an MBA in a nutshell, a tour of what people can expect once admitted to the program.

Prof. Bolante has a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from the Ateneo de Davao University, and holds a Diploma in Industrial Management from the Research Institute for Management Science in Delft, The Netherlands.

He earned his Master of Business Administration degree from the Ateneo de Manila University in 1987.

He started the lecture by explaining the two environments of a business planning cycle: the external factor or the macro, and the internal factor or the micro.

The external involves the socio-economic, political, and cultural aspect of the industry. The internal factor, said Prof. Bolante during the lecture, gives the organization its direction.

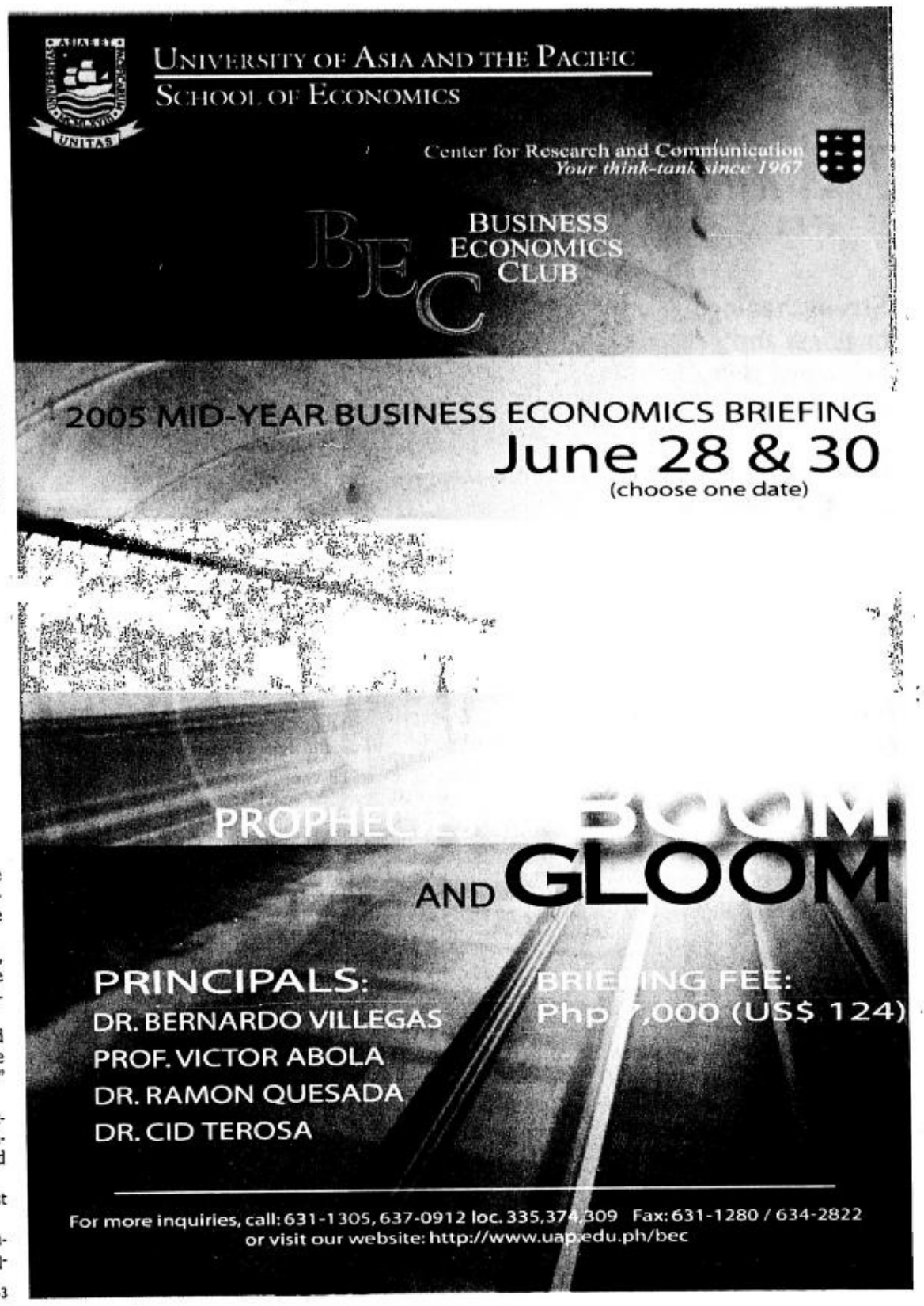
It is the conception of vision, mission and objectives. These are the primary goals of the company, or "the things you want to happen," said Prof. Bolante.

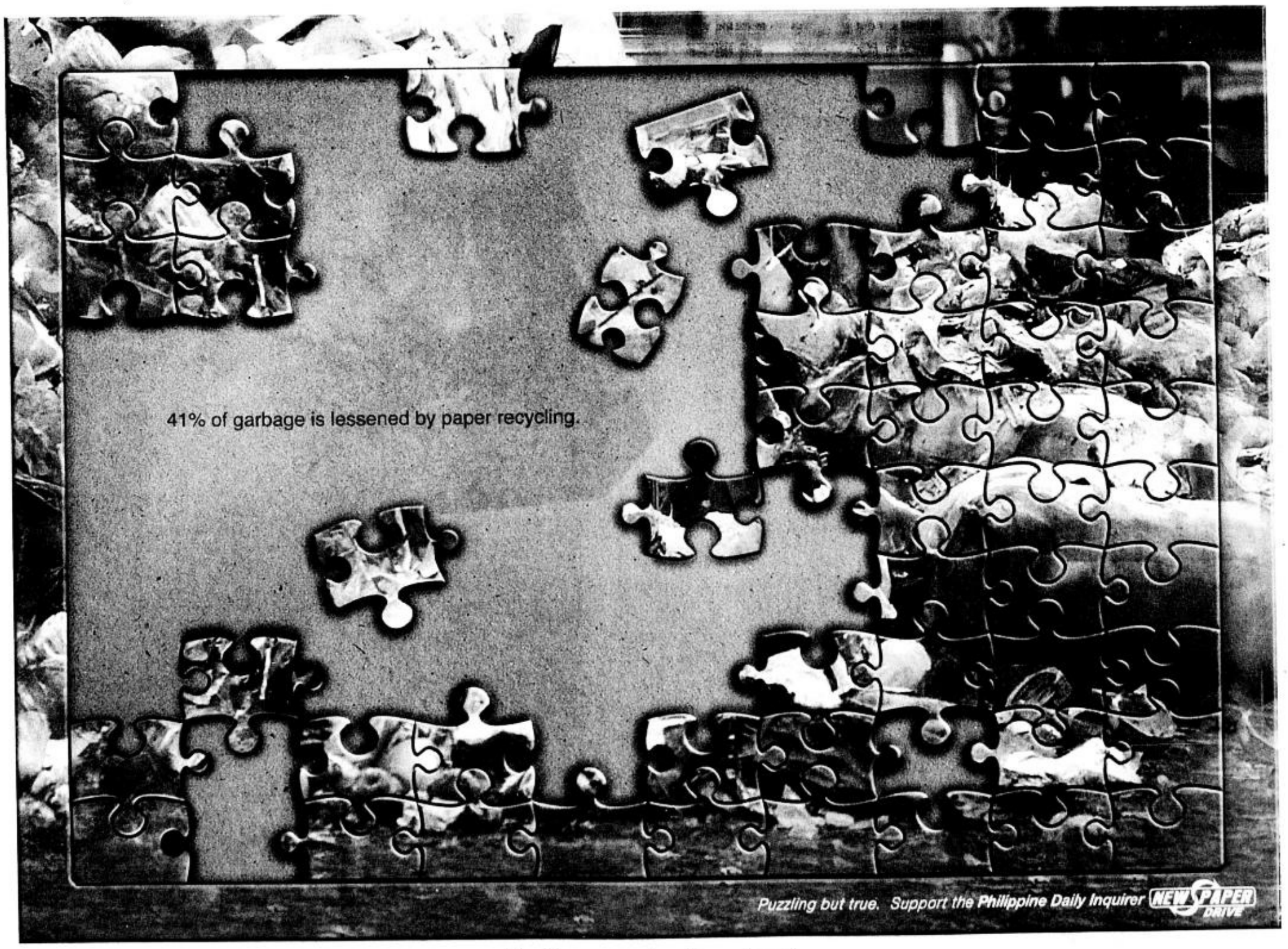
Functional strategies include the marketing (of the products), operations in the company, organization, the human resources, and finance.

The strategies, Prof. Bolante noted, must be focused and doable.

Prof. Bolante also discussed that the financial analysis must reflect the company's liq-

STRENGTHENING / B3-3





Garbage wastes the planet

In this time of progress where increased consumption of industrial products is inevitable, waste production multiplies rapidly. Unless garbage is disposed and managed properly, we are burdening ourselves with the problem of land and air congestion.

However, we can all do our share in managing our waste via paper recycling. Through recycling, paper which comprises much of municipal waste is reused instead. Greenhouse gas emission from decaying paper is therefore lowered. Ultimately, this ecological contribution junks the garbage problem.

You can be one in managing our waste materials through the NewPaper Drive. Now on its fifth year, this Inquirer recycling campaign aims to make a difference in the environment together with the whole nation. **Linis Ganda, Inquirer's partner in making a difference in the environment, will pick-up old newspapers and tabloids for FREE within Metro Manila.** For inquiries, call Winnie or Michelle at 410-0383 or 448-7835. For pick-ups, call CARPEL Office at 430-0656 or 430-8411 and look for Weng, Lorrie or Myra. Pick-ups are from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm on weekdays, from June 25 to October 25, 2005.

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LINIS-GANDA

Friday night fellowships create a partnership

UNLIKE other businessmen who power dress for work, Filipino-American Robert Epes, one of the directors of Super Bowl of China, wears casual attire when poring over the company's purchasing, trading and financial matters.

Looking at his unmistakable Caucasian looks, you would be surprised to hear him converse with the staff in perfect Tagalog.

Epes lived most of his life in the Philippines. After finishing secondary school at the International School, he studied Combined Sciences at the University of Sta. Clara in California.

"I wanted to become a surgeon. But three years into pre-med, I realized it was not what I expected," he explains. He switched gears and earned his Masters in Finance from Golden Gate University in San Francisco. Then for four years, he worked in Guam as a treasury officer at CitiBank.

EPES

Beginning of a partnership

Epes met his Super Bowl business partners, Luigi Vera and Richmond Yang, at Sta. Clara University in 1986 through the Filipino community.

Their Friday night fellowship over barbeque, beer and sports TV gave rise not only to a deep personal friendship but to a business partnership as well. "I have always been interested in getting an American franchise to open in the Philippines," he explains. They negotiated for Chili's to open a restaurant in Greenbelt and in 1996, formed AM-PHIL Corp. that now owns and manages Chili's in the country.

For love of Chinese food

Epes, Yang, Vera and business partner Winston Chan love to eat Chinese food but could not find a medium-priced Chinese restaurant serving great food amidst a nice ambiance. They then conceptualized Super Bowl of China and opened the first restaurant in SM Megamall in 2001. It was an instant hit. Now with ten branches (and more stores opening this year), Super Bowl of China maintains its reputation of being the leader in the Chinese casual dining segment.

In starting a new business, Epes and his partners had to work hard and share their expertise. Yang was in charge of marketing and site selection, Vera of construction and engineering and Epes, of logistics, finance, accounting and purchasing.

"Our relationship is built on trust. We also rely on each other's strengths," Epes disclosed.

He attributes the success of Super Bowl to its people. "Everyone at Super Bowl is committed to giving quality food and satisfying our customers. We are in a business of making people happy."

Having worked in the food industry for almost 10 years, Epes and his partners have learned not to compromise quality for profit's sake. "We don't cut corners, we don't jeopardize the integrity of our restaurant for a quick buck," he explains.

The food industry, he adds, is very competitive. "You come up with a good idea and others start to copy it. That is why we strive to become the innovator that people would want to follow. We always want to be two steps ahead of our competitors."

Aside from Super Bowl of China, AM-PHIL and Big Buddha Restaurant, Epes and his partners also own and manage Red Hot Trading that procures food products which supply to hotels, restaurants and supermarkets.

People-oriented

"My biggest motivation is to create or build things. If I were in another kind of business, it would still be that way for me," he states.

Epes says that seeing people develop and grow gives him utmost fulfillment and satisfaction. "I have seen Super Bowl employees who rose from the ranks because they have the heart and the willingness to learn and grow. Although we are in the food industry, we are actually in the 'people business.'" he remarked. "On the corporate side, we make people grow; on the customer side, we make people happy and satisfied."

Talking to Epes, one will immediately get the impression that he is a 'people' person. He is on a first-name basis with majority of the Super Bowl crew.

Honesty is also one virtue Epes is known for. For him, making money is just a consequence of doing something right. "Everybody wants to make money and business is business, as they say. But at the end of the day, you make money by doing a series of right tasks. The money will come after which you and your people will feel good about," he says.

Creating ...

From page B4

single handset. Instead, we aim to develop more flexible and beneficial ways of serving our customers through various combinations of services provided via our different access networks—whether these be landline, DSL, GSM or wireless broadband," Nazareno said.

The vision of a converged telco group has been the goal of the PLDT Group for the past several years. In his speech at the recent PLDT shareholders meeting, PLDT Chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said that "telcos whose business rests on a single platform are likely to diminish in both strength and relevance."

He stressed that "the market would favor those telcos that are able to offer richer, broader, newer and more innovative variety of products, solutions and services."

The reach of its infrastructure has long been one of the strategic strengths of PLDT. Combined, the Group has the most extensive fiber and IP backbone networks with the largest capacity to haul voice and data traffic nationally and internationally.

The group also runs the most extensive fixed and cellular networks. SMART's GSM network alone is composed of 5,400 base stations, covering over 95 percent of the population. The fixed, cellular and ICT networks currently serve more than 22 million subscribers.

PLDT's FMC initiatives thus far has taken the form of bundled services aimed at taking full advantage of the superiority of PLDT's network. For example:

- PLDT launched last March PLDT WeRoam a wireless Internet access service for corporate customers using Smart's GSM/GPRS/EDGE network and Meridian Telekom's fixed wireless service.
- PLDT also launched its NDD call promos that offered its fixed line subscribers flat rates for calls to Smart and Talk 'N Text cell phone users.
- Smart has recently soft launched a wireless DSL service that is initially being offering to customers in provincial areas.

However, PLDT's various networks have thus far operated as independent silos that in large part "just couldn't talk with each other."

"We are starting to change this. We are creating a common back office that will service multiple access networks. Eventually, these access networks will be served by an integrated IP core supporting various applications across these networks," Nazareno said.

The convergence of fixed and mobile technologies at the network level will enable PLDT to offer next generation products and services that are much more flexible and tailor suited to customer needs. FMC will thus position PLDT to face the challenges posed by increased competition and the advent of new broadband technologies.

Strengthening ...

From page B3-2

uidity and solvency.

Prof. Richard Cruz, one of the youngest instructors at AIM, started his lecture with a question on how attendees understood some leading companies' marketing strategies.

Prof. Cruz holds a Master in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management. He completed his Bachelor of Science in Management Engineering at the Ateneo de Manila University.

According to Cruz, businesses must be able to create value for the customer's satisfaction. Shareholders' value, meanwhile, is driven by returns and risks.

Professional managers are driven to make solid decisions—decisions that are considered to be of high quality, which would have a direct impact on the consumers.

Consumers today are more intelligent and knowledgeable about the products in the market. They are more demanding and are sometimes less patient.

Marketing has proven to be an efficient way of reaching out to people. Knowing how to successfully convince the market to buy a product lies, to a certain extent, on how well one promotes it.

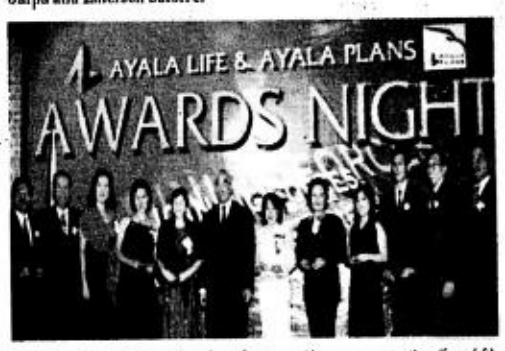
Cruz said the market must also be studied, and knowing how to execute marketing programs, and execute them well, are needed in today's competitive world.

Daunting as the challenges sound, the skills needed to overcome them can be learned. Getting an MBA might just be the first step in the right direction.

AYALA PLANS AWARDS TOP ACHIEVERS ON ITS 10TH YEAR

Ayala Plans, Inc. honored its top producers with a congratulatory dinner and awards ceremony held at the Intercontinental Hotel Makati last April 6, 2005 in yet another joyful recognition of the excellence of its workforce.

Honored were Ayala Plans President's Circle awardees Nenita Fernandez, Hanae Venus Bagabaldo, Kristine Marie Sabelino and Ivan Nemenzo; as well as Ayala Plans' Honor Roll Awardees Divina Clarieia, Stella Pantua, Ma. Lourdes Evangelista, Nelia Nemenzo, Nelly Joy Garpa and Emerson Satorre.



Ayala Plans Honor Roll awardees share the stage with company executives (from left): Regional Manager Gloria D. Cagulada, ALAI Business Director Laura L. Abalo, AP Business Director Marilyn A. Mayoralgo, Divina Clarieia, Stella Pantua, BPI-IG President Emilio S. De Quiros Jr., Ma. Lourdes Evangelista, AP Business Manager Nelia Nemenzo, Regional Manager Viviene L. Villena, Alvin Roldan, Sales Director Angelo M. Cabrera and Sales Director Jose A. Montino Jr.

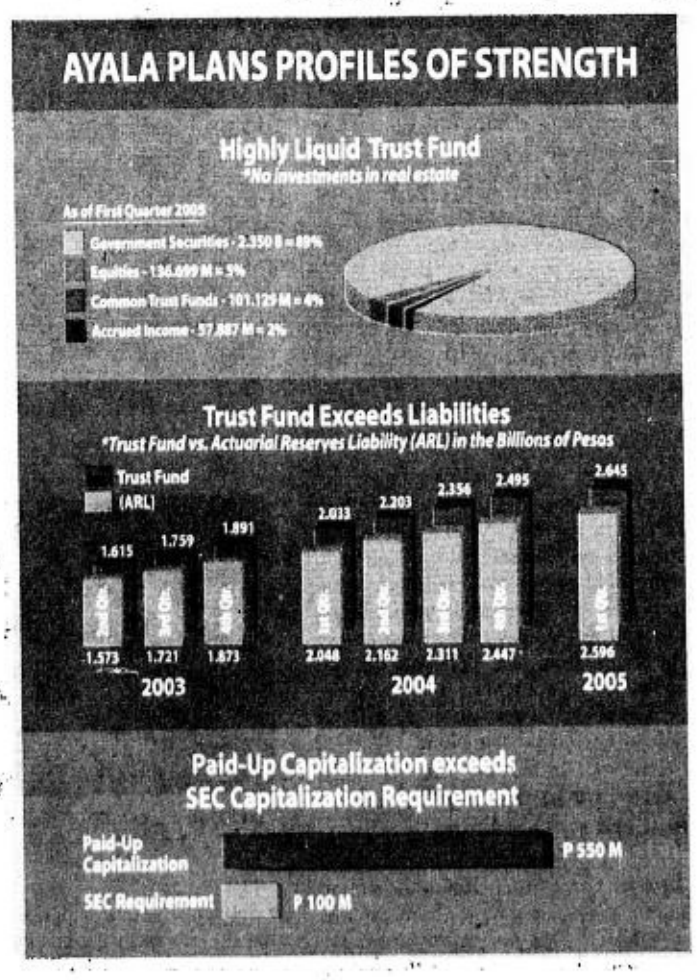
Decked out in formal attire, the awardees proudly trooped to the stage to receive their prizes and plaques. Festive music and applause echoed the collective sentiment of the group. "Everyone felt like celebrating," smiled Marilyn A. Mayoralgo, Business Director for Ayala Plans. "The effort has paid off really well. We have come a long way."

GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH

Now on its tenth year of operations, Ayala Plans continues to make big strides in the pre-need industry. Working in partnership with over 2,000 agents, it generated a net income of P36.4 million before full amortization of deferred commissions in 2004. And it shortly achieved "zero-deferred commission" in December 2004, way ahead of the deadline set by the Securities and Exchange Commission for pre-need companies.

The Company attributes its rapid growth to a competent sales force and a loyal pool of planholders, now 46,000 strong. Ayala Plans further solidified its commitment to its agents and plan holders in 2000, when it became the wholly-owned pre-need company of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, a multi-awarded institution and the most financially stable universal bank in the Philippines and in Southeast Asia.

Ayala Plans President's Circle Awardees were (from left) Nenita Fernandez, Hanae Venus Bagabaldo, Kristine Marie Sabelino and Ivan Nemenzo.



Ayala Plans President Emilio S. De Quiros Jr.: "BPI stands behind its companies."

Its asset base has grown to over P4.5 billion today, and paid-up capitalization has reached P550 million, or four and a half times higher than the SEC requirement of P100 million. Meanwhile, trust funds exceed Company liabilities by P49 million.

According to Emilio S. de Quiros, Jr., Ayala Plans President, this proves "that BPI stands behind its companies. [It] infused capital to make sure that [Ayala Plans] will be financially sound and instilled the BPI's culture of efficiency and quality service. Anything that will happen to its subsidiaries will impact the mother company so it made sure that we're on solid ground." For good reason, Ayala Plans is certainly celebrating its superior performance last year.

A ROCK AMIDST STORMY WATERS

Indeed, despite liquidity issues that have plagued a number of players in the pre-need industry, Ayala Plans has maintained a firm grip on the loyalty of its clients. "Knowing BPI's reputation, our agents and our clients know the kind of strength and stability we are offering," says Mayoralgo. "They know that we are highly capable of honoring our commitments for the years to come."

She adds, "Our planholders entered into a long-term commitment that requires their trust, and they feel safe. Although the industry is experiencing problems, they still feel good about their investments. Ayala Plans only sold fixed-value plans from the start, and with BPI now fully behind it, it stands on even firmer ground."

Ayala Plans Business Director Marilyn Mayoralgo: "Our clients know the strength and stability we are offering."

De Quiros maintains that pre-need is still one of the best investments a person can make. "The value of a pre-need plan is that it forces people to save money. It's a savings plan with a goal, a way of making sure that money for the future is not used for the present and for sometimes, unnecessary purchases. Pre-need is a solid concept," he says. "The only question people have to ask themselves is not whether or not it's wise to buy pre-need plans, but who to buy them from."

Synergy with the bank is already giving pre-need clients and agents numerous conveniences. Clients can access their pre-need account payments through BPI's facilities, namely Express Phone Banking (89-100), Internet Banking (www.bpiexpressonline.com), and Express Teller Machines (ATMs), nationwide. Agents can also collect commissions and remit premium collections through BPI's branches and ATMs.

A DRIVEN SALES FORCE

BPI President Aurelio R. Montinola III emphasized the synergy between Ayala Plans and the bank in his keynote speech.

Yet convenience is just one of the many reasons why Ayala Plans' agents continue to meet and even surpass Company expectations. Confident of BPI's financial stability and support, agents are exhibiting an increasing enthusiasm to sell.

"Our business partners achieve their goals because they feel motivated, and they feel motivated because they feel secure," says Mayoralgo. "They are assured that Ayala Plans will be able to fulfill all its obligations, and thus never put their personal credibility and integrity on the line. And as this year's awards night shows, this partnership is reaping the rewards."

Ayala Plans, Inc. celebrated its awards night together with Ayala Life, Assurance, Inc., BPI's wholly-owned insurance company.

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BUSINESS*Monday*

FIXED MOBILE COMBINATION

New wave of convergence

NAZARENO

"CONVERGENCE" is an old buzz word in the telecommunications business that fell out of sight for a while, but is now staging a comeback. As before, it is the country's leading telecoms group that is again waving the convergence banner, but this time with a new twist.

"Our agenda at the PLDT Group is to pursue our own variety of fixed-mobile convergence—with ICT thrown into the salad," said Napoleon L. Nazareno, CEO of Smart Communications and its parent company PLDT.

"For operators, fixed-mobile convergence is one way—some would argue it is the only way—to maintain revenues and find new sources of growth in an environment being reshaped by transformational technologies," he said in his keynote speech at the Asian MobileNews Awards Ceremonies last week during which Smart was cited as the "Mobile Operator of the Year—Philippines."

The phrase "fixed-mobile convergence" or FMC has acquired several meanings. In its most advanced form, FMC enables customers to seamlessly roam between fixed and mobile networks using a single handset.

In other words, your handset acts as your landline at home or office and as your mobile when moving around. UK operator British Telecom launched such a service last week called BT Fusion.

But FMC can also bring benefits even without a single converged device. Operators can gain competitive advantage by offering various service packages of fixed and mobile services. This is the tack that PLDT is now taking.

"At this point, our vision is not yet about concentrating usage into a

CREATING / B3

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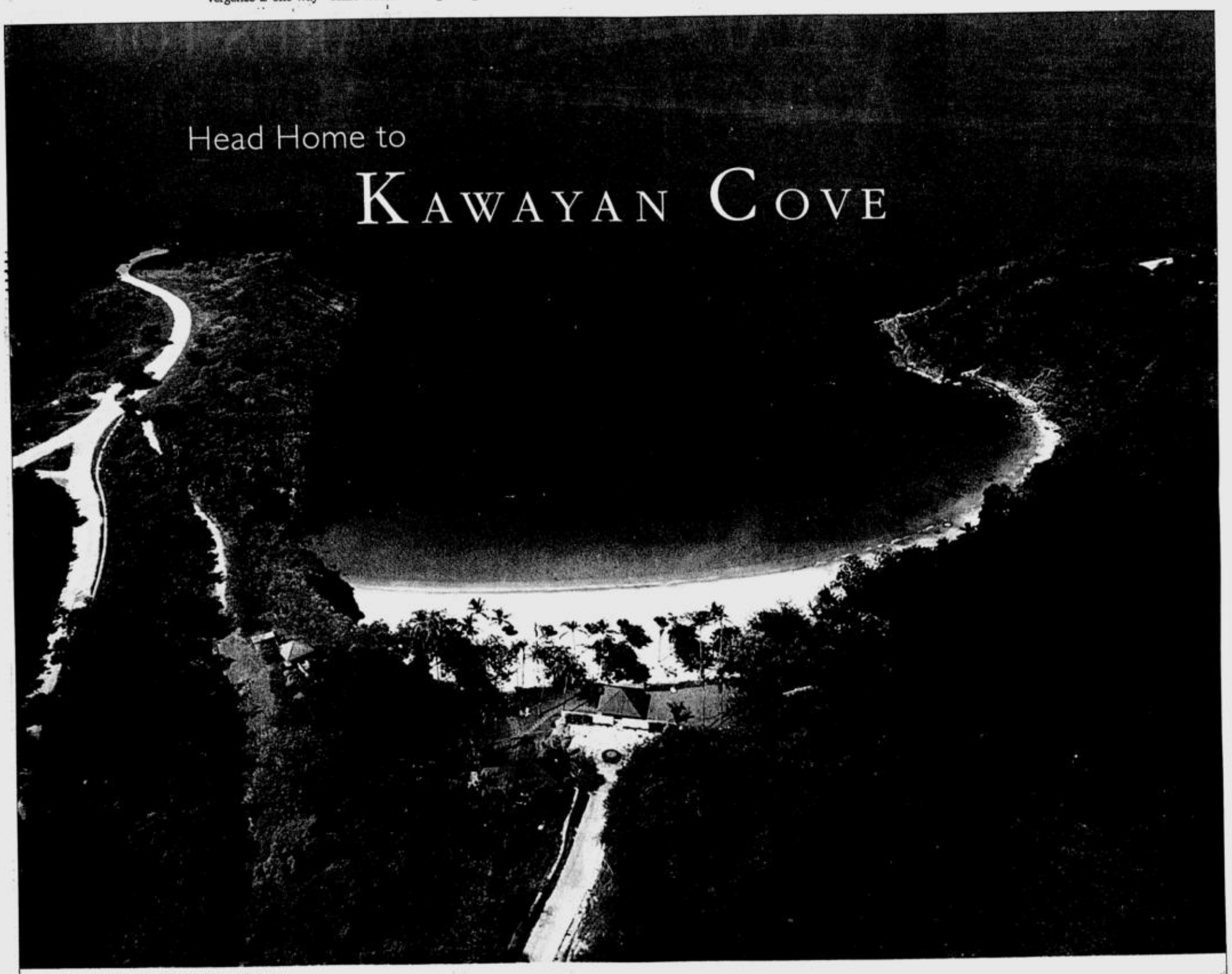

Actual shot of Bamboo Beach, Nasugbu, Batangas

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about it, but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands.

Kawayan Cove is the exclusive residential enclave on the verdant slopes that surround the fabled beach.

For generations, only the owners have had homes at this legendary locale. Now you can be one of the few who head home to Kawayan Cove.

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This is where adventure starts - the entrance to Kawayan Cove.

The name Bamboo Beach has an almost mythic ring to it. Many people have heard stories about this fabled locale but only a few have ever set foot on its natural white sands. A spectacular 650 meter crescent on the western coast of the Batangas shoreline, it is protected from the prying eyes of the outside world by twin headlands.

Surrounding this secluded retreat is a 61-hectare private enclave known as Kawayan Cove. It is composed of a limited number of prime residential lots, ranging from 500 to 2,000 square meters, situated on dramatic slopes between shore and summit. The highest elevation is 127 meters above sea level, providing homeowners with a breathtaking view of the South China Sea. For those who are environment-conscious, the good news is that the cove is a sanctuary for natural vegetation and existing fauna.

Luxuriate in the comfort of modern seaside living

Kawayan Cove artfully blends the natural and the man-made. All the homes in this residential seaside community are envisioned to merge subtly with the lush, tropical environment. World-class facilities have been designed to complement a sacred approach to nature. Land, sea and cultural heritage are safeguarded to enrich the community, thus making Kawayan Cove truly priceless. A weekend getaway, a summer haven and a luxurious, secluded second home, Kawayan Cove makes living an ideal idyll.

This isn't Bali - this is a bridge leading to one of the tranquil spots in Bamboo Beach.

Since development began in 2002, progress has been steady. So far, 75% of road networks and subterranean cabled utilities have been completed. The first several residents have begun construction on their future abodes. Facilities like the Meditation Point and the Bamboo Beach Club structures such as the Welcome Pavilion, Beach Pavilion, Bamboo Bar and Beach Bath Houses have all been completed. Coming soon is the inauguration of the Sports and Recreation Area, where residents can enjoy the kiddie pool, the children's playground, picnic grove, barbecue area, tennis court and basketball court. Anticipation is riding high on the availability of more view lots in Phase 3.

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LIFESTYLE

Editor **Chelo Banal-Formoso**
Subsection Editor **Lito B. Zulueta**

AWARD-WINNING actor Bernardo Bernardo and the Philippine American theater group, Perseverance Theater, are the subjects of the cover story of the latest issue of American Theatre, the bible of the American dramatic arts. The story, by senior editor Randy Gener, takes note of the achievements of the theater group, particularly "Voyage," about four generations of Filipinos in Alaska. The productions, according to the magazine, "capture the frontier lives and immigrant dreams of Filipino Alaskans."

Satya's music transcends barriers

STORY ON PAGE C3

What's Your Best-Kept Beauty Secret?

Cristina Gonzalez-Romualdez, Carmi Martin, Patty Betita, Eva Abesamis, Barbi Chan, Lani Mercado...what do they and other beautiful women have in common? They share one "beauty secret" – Facial Care Centre. Find out what makes them stay in love with Facial Care Centre's treatments and services.

JENNY ICASAS

When did you first go to Facial Care Centre and what made you go?

CARMI MARTIN

Carmi Martin: 2003. For professional help with my skin discoloration.
Patty Betita: In 1996, I wanted to get rid of under-eye circles, blackheads and whiteheads.
Irene Salud: 1993. For expert help with annoying age spots and fine lines around my eyes.
Dinah Dominguez: Sometime in the '80s because of enlarged pores, unwanted body hair and skin maintenance.
Jenny Icasas: 1996. I was a bit stressed with my business so I wanted a place to relax, de-stress, and enjoy skin pampering.

BETITA

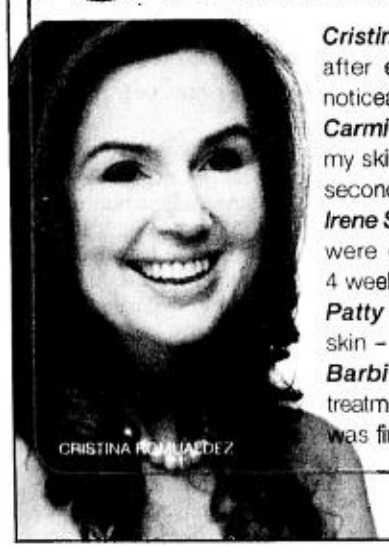
What keeps you coming back to Facial Care Centre after all these years?

Dinah Dominguez: The treatments are so relaxing, they're very addictive!
Carmi Martin: It's a totally different experience. If you really want to look younger, then go to Facial Care Centre.
Lani Mercado: Only Facial Care offers the most advanced treatments that give you immediate results.
Barbi Chan: It's a place where you can really relax and it really shows on your face – your skin becomes softer, smoother, younger-looking.
Patty Betita: The treatments are for real! FCC really helps you maintain your younger-looking skin at any age.
Jenny Icasas: I always feel at home at Facial Care Centre.
Eva Abesamis: I can wholeheartedly vouch for the effectiveness of their treatments. Plus, the service is excellent!
Suzette Arriesgado: I wouldn't entrust my skin to just anyone else.

What's the best compliment you've received about your skin?

Lani Mercado: I don't age.
Dinah Dominguez: It's flawless even without makeup.
Carmi Martin: I look so young and fresh.
Eva Abesamis: They say I have peaches-and-cream, "*colegiala*-looking" skin.
Patty Betita: Radiant and young-looking!
Jenny Icasas: It's so supple and flawless it looks almost unreal!
Irene Salud: People always think I'm much younger than my real age.
Cristina Romualdez: Flawless, radiant and beautiful!

What was the effect of your treatments and how soon did you see the results?


CRISTINA ROMUALDEZ

Cristina Romualdez: Immediately after each treatment, my skin is noticeably more radiant.
Carmi Martin: The treatments gave my skin an instant lift – after only my second session!
Irene Salud: Fine lines and age spots were dramatically reduced within 4 weeks of regular treatment.
Patty Betita: Tighter, more radiant skin – in less than a month!
Barbi Chan: Right after the first treatment, my pores tightened, my skin was firm and felt dewy and glowing.

"Only Facial Care offers treatments that give you immediate results."

Why is having beautiful skin important to you?

Cristina Romualdez: Beautiful skin is a reflection of how well you take care of yourself and how well you live your life.
Lani Mercado: As an actress, having beautiful skin is simply a must.
Eva Abesamis: I spend a lot of time enjoying the great outdoors but I don't want my skin to show signs of it.
Irene Salud: It gives me confidence.
Suzette Arriesgado: It's nice to grow old looking years younger.

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MIGUEL Faustmann and Joy Virata in Rep's "Whose Wife is it Anyway"

MIDYEAR REPORT CARD

Explosion of young talents in the performing arts

EUGENE Fredrick Castillo, PPO music director and principal conductor

By Amadís Ma. Guerrero
Contributor

THE PERFORMING arts started with a bang in the second quarter, and there was no slackening, no doldrums in the summer months. And in June, there was an explosion of youthful musical talents.

At the Cultural Center of the Philippines early in April, it was Cultural Night for the delegates of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU). Topnotch talents and troupes were tapped, traditional dances and songs continued to thrill, and new works were a delight. The "Pandanggo sa Ilaw" was beautifully performed in darkness to spontaneous applause.

The exuberance of youth must have been an eye-opener for the foreigners, and a source of pride for us Pinoys. In June a similar extravaganza, with stellar talents led by Lea Salonga and zestfully directed by Dennis Marasigan, was staged for the Department of Tourism.

Soprano Alexis Edralin, 22, had an auspicious debut at the Philam Life Auditorium early in June. She regaled the audience with her impressive voice, sure technique and stage presence. Edralin (UP College of Music) was partnered in some arias by another young and outstanding singer, the handsome tenor Rogelio Peñaverde Jr. (UST Conservatory of Music), and what beautiful music the duo made!

Edralin and Peñaverde are gifted talents ready for the big time. The concert was directed by, again, Dennis Marasigan and produced by Audience Builders. Their 2005 season resumes in August with tenor Peñaverde in a solo recital.

Peñaverde and Edralin scored again a week later in "Filipinas Kong Mahal," featuring the songs of master composer Francisco Santiago, appropriately, at the Francisco Santiago Hall of the Equitable-PCIB Auditorium. Also in the program were young veterans like the superb Rachelle Gerodias, Nelson Caruncho and Ramon Acoymo.

Pianist Oliver Salonga and cellist Victor Michael Coo performed with the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (led by Rodel Colmenar), at the Philam Life, to ovations. "I have never seen anything like it since (pianist Cecile) Licad," raved one music lover. Coo duplicated his feat a week later at the Pasig Museum during the Pasig Summer Festival, which earlier featured pianist Ina Montesclaros, a child prodigy who plays like an adult. (Coo's collaborating artist was Mary Anne Espina.)

It was youth on parade. And the plethora of performance left some critics gaping.

Milestone

Monique Wilson celebrated her 25 years in theater (and her 35th birthday) in a special anniversary show at Music Museum. She was at her sparkling best, singing, reminiscing and chatting with the audience. It was a "bittersweet" event for her, however, for mentor Bibot Amador and father Johnny Wilson were no longer around; and her mother Terry is bedridden.

The New Voice ensemble, including co-director Rito Asilo, and the Ugoy-Ugoy Band (led by Bond Samson), as always, provided excellent backup.

Allan Cosio and Ivi Avellana are better known as visual artists but both have a background in theater, Ivi being the daughter of National Artists Lamberto Avellana and Daisy Hontiveros. The two are also fine singers who have been taking formal voice lessons for sometime now.

The fruits of their rigorous rehearsals were presented recently at a recital for friends at the Bival residence in Quezon City. And, mind you, the repertoire of the couple was not child's play, consisting of art songs and opera arias.

On June 19, Rizal's birth anniversary, high baritone Cosio and soprano Avellana joined other professional talents and trained aficionados for a soireé at Heritage House, Blue Ridge, which was transformed into a rousing tertulia. Among those who performed were pianist Salonga, 14-year-old soprano Lina Mackenzie, tenor Ramon San Agustin (a revelation), soprano Tata Poblador, and pianist-singer-radio program host Bert Robledo (who later gave a recital at the Far Eastern University Auditorium).

Sir Michael Tippett's "A Child of Our Time" (1944), dedicated to victims of the Holocaust, is unfamiliar to most Filipinos. Okay, I haven't heard of it myself. But that doesn't mean it's not an oratorio in the grand manner, and a moving musical experience.

This was interpreted by the Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra (PPO) led by Eugene Castillo, soloists (Gerodias, Ocampo, Fernando and Acoymo) and the Madrigals et al at St. Cecilia's Hall. Another innovative composition was Francisco Feliciano's "Voices and Images," which contrasted the sweetness of a mother's lullaby with the sinister tones of fascist-martial music.

Also remembered in a special concert at the CCP were the victims of the Terezin concentration camp in the Czech Republic. The compositions played by the PPO were by Czech composers who died in Terezin during the Holocaust. While angst filtered through the works, these were surprisingly lively, even electrifying at times. Guest pianist was the bombastic Noam Sivan of Israel.

In "Duetto" (at CCP's Tanghalang Aurelio Tolentino), duo concert pianists Della Gamboa Besa and Anamaria Gregorio de Guzman played with a rapport and assurance established through the years, each tackling both fiery as well as lyrical passages, each complementing the other.

The encore number "Bato sa Buhangin," by the late National Artist Ernani Cuenco, showed how beautiful our music can be when interpreted in a classical style.

At Greenbelt Onstage, Repertory Philippines' adaptation of Ray Cooney's "Whose Wife Is It Anyway?" (directed by Baby Barredo) was a qualified success, although more Tagalog dialogue should have been thrown in. Contrary to their image, most Rep actors are fluent in Filipino.

Niccolo Manahan and Marisse Borlaza were great fun as The Waiter and The Maid, respectively, Pinoy accents and all. But Joy Virata, as the congressman's wife, still sounded like the American mestiza that she is.

Promising third quarter

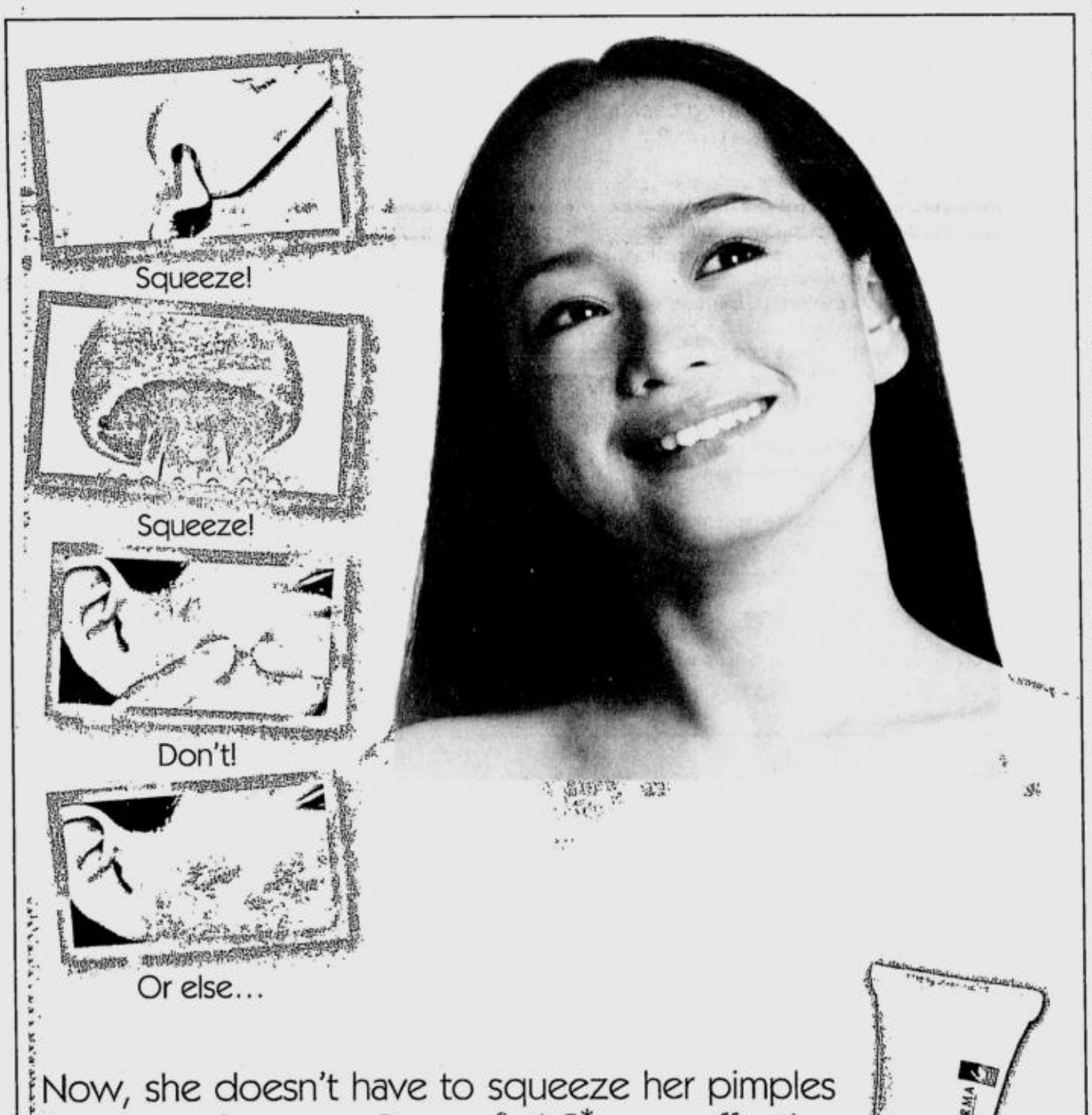
The third quarter promises to be just as exciting, as the major companies resume their concert and theater seasons: Ballet Manila (in Aug. 12 with "Swan Lake"); the PPO (on Sept. 9 with tenor William George); Tanghalang Pilipino (in August with a "jologs" adaptation of Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet"); and Repertory Philippines (starting on Sept. 2 with a Shakespeare comedy, followed by two big musicals).

There's the Filipino Artists Series at the CCP from July-November (clarinetist Ariel Santa Ana, tenor Abdul Candao, marimba player Dena Fernandez and pianist Mary Anne Espino). And don't forget the mother of all operatic concerts (Philam Life July 26), featuring tenor Otoniel Gonzaga of Iloilo, one of the leading opera singers in the world today.

ALEXIS Edralin, soprano

NOAM Sivan, Israeli pianist

ROGELIO Peñaverde Jr., tenor



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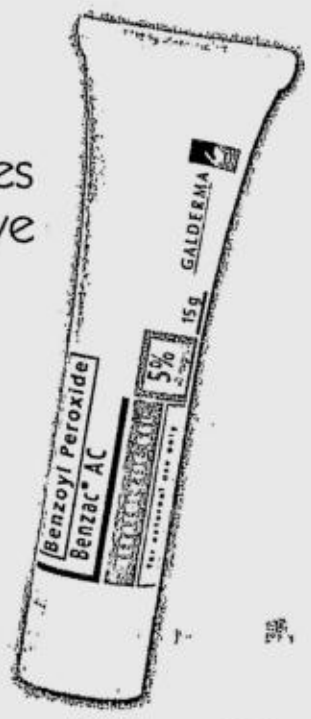

GALDERMA PHILIPPINES

Satya's music transcends barriers

Manila gets an eclectic sample of music by the multicultural group of music scholars from Berklee

Text by Anne A. Jambora
Photos by Ryan Lim

IF music governed the world, then it would have long ago found harmony and strength in diversity. The unique musical repertoire by Satya, an eclectic mix of scholars from the Berklee College of Music, proved just that. Despite diverse musical backgrounds, language barrier and complicated proximity issues, music indeed transcends all boundaries.

"Our diversity has always been a plus. Bringing in people from different backgrounds, race and culture changed the whole vibe of the band," says the half-Filipino, half-Spaniard Marcos Z. Sainz, who plays piano and keyboards.

Sainz, who formed the band with Seville-born Juan Galliardo in 2003 at Boston, says the band originally started with mostly Spaniard members. A summa cum laude computer engineering graduate of Columbia University, Sainz used to work as a software engineer and designer for a Silicon Valley firm before pursuing music full-time.

SATYA interprets various Filipino classics with a contemporary jazz feel.

DRUMMER Jeriel Johnson, who has shared the stage with the likes of Chaka Khan and other great artists, believes in the band's vision of constantly engaging in a cultural dialogue to give music a fresh new sound.

Spanish link

When he was awarded the scholarship at Berklee, he didn't know anybody so he naturally hooked up with Spanish students. Then he met Galliardo. The two began exchanging musical ideas, and ended up composing song after song. When they recorded it, as a private fun project, both realized it sounded good.

"It kinda went very organic from there on, so we created a band," Sainz says.

As the next several months saw many of its members coming and leaving the band, a new fresh sound began to emerge. This fusing of a mixture of cultures enriched their sound as each brought in his/her interpretation of music intrinsic ethnicity of his/her background.

"You can tell right away that this guy didn't grow up in my neighborhood," he says.

The result is a very digestible and accessible interpretation of jazz, R&B, funk, soul, as Satya tries to establish a link between pop and jazz. Simply put, the band stripped down jazz music to its bare essentials, so to speak. Remove the snooty factor and you get music that is easy to appreciate. No need to have a cigar and brandy to understand jazz music, says Sainz, and you might even want to dance.

"This isn't about making money. If we wanted to make money we could have stayed in our local city and do weddings. Don't go to the Philippines and perform original music," he says.

And it's hard enough that its members live in various parts of the world. After the eight-member band's performance recently at the new 2,100-sq-m Harbor Garden of Westin Philippine Plaza, each has to go his/her separate ways. Galliardo is going back to Spain, Sainz to Berklee where he still has two years to go before graduation along with a few more student scholar-members, one is going to England, another to Brazil.

Bridging distance

Sainz, however, thinks that bridging the awkward physical limitations of Satya's members through the Net is the very spirit that draws inspiration from each one of them to pursue their passion. Since some of members have already graduated and are professional musicians in their homelands, they communicate through e-mail and chat, and write original compositions from there.

It's not easy, he says, but for now not one is giving up on his/her dreams. This complex arrangement has trained the band to be prepared for anything, even at the last minute. For their Philippine gig, for instance, they have to learn Filipino classics, such as "Dahil Sa Isang Bulaklak," in a span of a few days, and make their own musical interpretation of contemporary Filipino jazz.

Satya also held music clinics at the University of the Philippines. "By bringing the band to different places and meeting people and feeding in on various musical ideas from different countries with different traditions—that's what keeps us fresh," he says.

The word Satya actually doesn't mean anything, he says. It was just a word they picked up along the way. One of the main goals of the band is to keep no boundaries, Sainz says. Picking a word that doesn't have a national identity keeps the band's spirit free and hopefully brings across a message of tolerance, peace and mutual respect through its sound.

"We try to keep the feeling of being a musician and loving every minute of it as much as possible alive and healthy," he says.

Satya is composed of Galliardo and Sainz on piano and keyboards; Miguel Gandelman, tenor and soprano sax; Nadine Ford, vocals; Alexei Gordeev, alto sax and flute; Voro Garcia, trumpet; Mark Kelley, bass; and Jeriel Johnson, drums.

E-mail the author at ajambora@inquirer.com.ph

MARCOS Sainz on keyboards plans to bring the band back to the Philippines by December.

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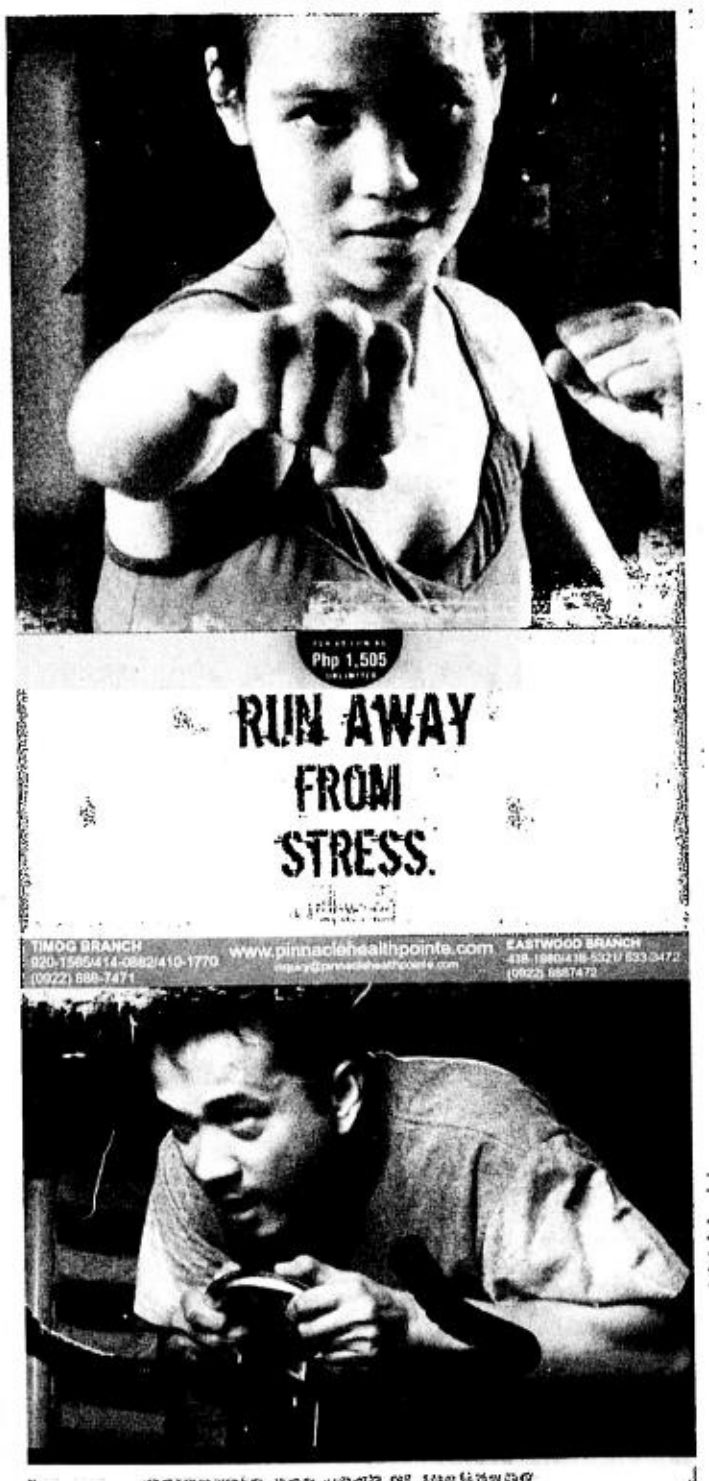

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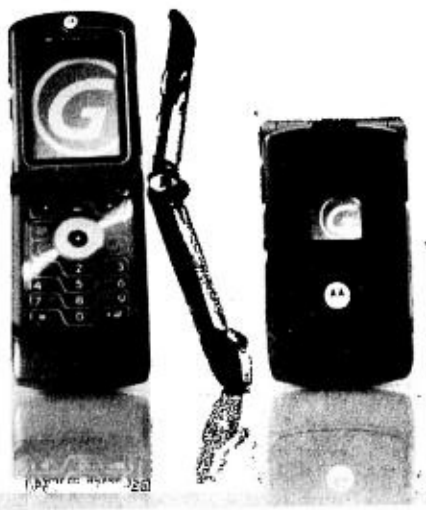

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Phases of Lindslee

By Jessica Jalandoni-Robillos
Contributor

ALONG Pasilio Guillermo Tolentino on the third floor of Cultural Center of the Philippines are hung the latest abstractions of Lindslee.

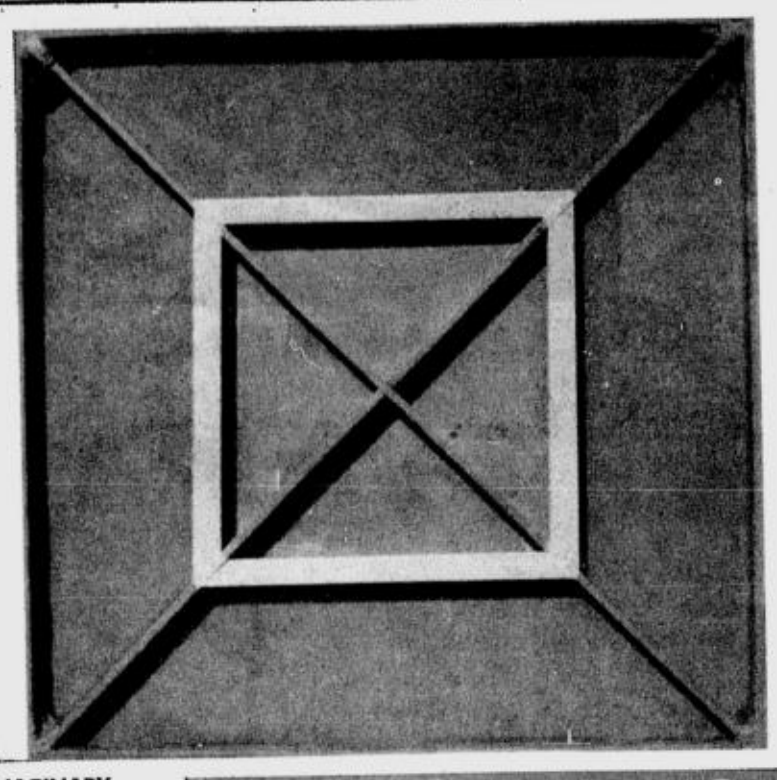
They are mixed-media works offering viewers double treats, for they are a collection of back-and-front pieces the artist has dubbed "Face:Phase." And aptly so, for the artworks seem to revolve around concepts and theories that do with appearances and stages.

Janus, two-faced god of gates and doorways in Roman mythology, comes to mind, and since this show "presents Lindslee in a different light," it is a fitting reference to the many facets of the artist and his craft.

The works are square, the flat front surface displaying the mottled or blotchy expanses so familiar in Lee's compositions. Behind, colors come into play, the X-brace is an element and not just a form of support. Where the wood meets at the center is either a circular mass of texturant and paint, or additional planks which convey perspective, or both.

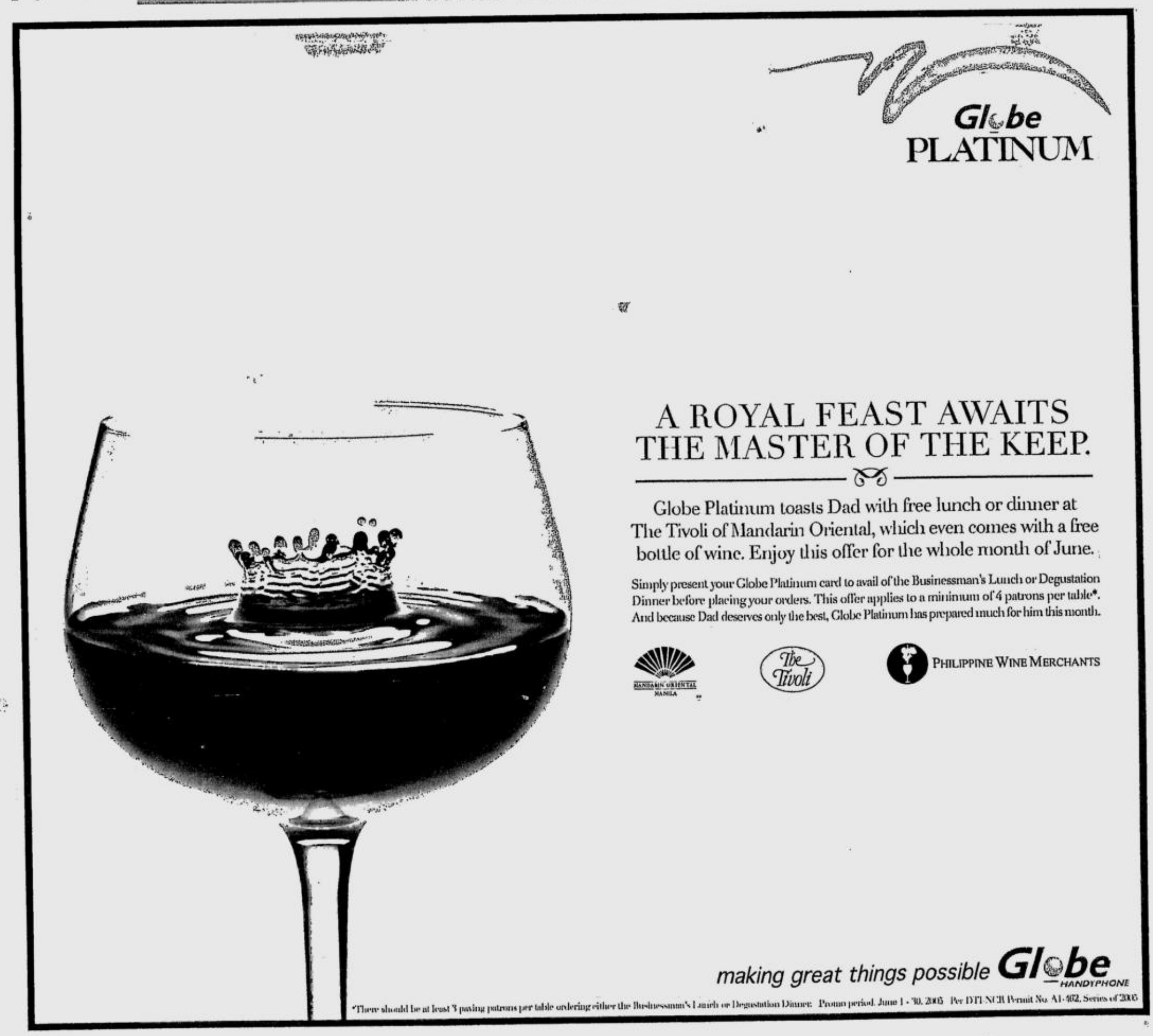
Circles in squares and the constant Xs vaguely remind one of Leonardo

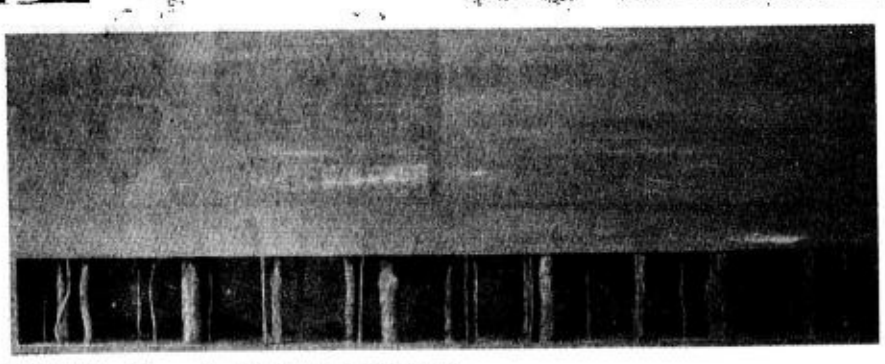
PHASES/ D2



"IMAGINARY Junction" (back)

Like Janus, the artist opens a door for a view of his psyche





"HAZE (Sweet Lavender Blushes and Watches)"

The weird beauty of found objects

By Constantino C. Tejero

OBJECTS to Alfredo Juan Aquilizan are deeply imbued with meaning. That's why the nontraditional materials he uses for his mixed-media works are often relics from his life, remnants of his past, bits and pieces of his memories.

Used toothbrushes, discarded shoes and slippers, cigarette butts, bus tickets, baby sweaters, electrical wiring, sticks and stones are only a few of those banal things he collects and finds uses for. Treating them like sacred objects, he integrates them into his artworks or transforms them into artworks themselves. That makes Aquilizan one of our foremost celebrators of found objects and ready-mades.

"LANDSCAPE Painting (Under the Viridian Sky)"

Such objects he deploys again in "Maquiling Revisited," six reliefs in mixed media, until June 28 in Galleria Duemila at the Artwalk, L/4, Bldg. A, SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City.

Having made Makiling his home for over 10 years, the artist ransacks his memories of the place and conjures it not only visually but also by using objects retrieved from the place. The association of object and place, the relationship of art and memory, should deepen the meaning of the artwork for both artist and viewer.

The place, says the exhibition note, furnished Aquilizan not only with ideas and flashes of inspiration and insight but also the very materials for his works.

"Katring (Yellow Memory from Yellow Age)," for instance, has bougainvillea vines from Mt. Makiling woven into a mat, a nest or the image of a seed opening to the light. This piece won third prize at the Art Association of the Philippines annual competition.

These are old works, actually, most of them prize-winning. "Landscape Painting (Into the Blue)" was an entry in the Philip Morris Art Award competition, while "Landscape Painting (Browned off)" has been exhibited in the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

The two are similar in their use of empty film canisters and plastic cups arranged in the pictorial frame to resemble holes. They differ only in their embellishment of wire—dripping in the former and cobwebby in the latter, then painted blue and brown, respectively. They evoke the bark of trees, chrysalis or the skin of some strange animal.

"Dwelling (A Drift of Empty Holes)" also has holes as motif but more tightly and rigidly arranged in a bisected square, then spattered and dripped with lavender paint. This one evokes a structural or architectural detail, a window or grating.

"Haze (Sweet Lavender Blushes and Watches)" looks like purple mist passing through the treetops. Only the trunks of trees are visible in the lower section of the piece.

"Landscape Painting (Under the Viridian Sky)" is another bisected artwork, the dominant upper section containing branches in parallel arrangement to resemble slim trunks of trees, and the lower portion very green artificial leaves piled in four segments.

This loveliest of Aquilizan's evocation of the Makiling rainforest won the Diwa ng Sining award of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts.

Aquilizan was an assistant professor in the Department of Humanities of the University of the Philippines in Los Baños, Laguna. He was also a Special Education teacher at the Philippine High School for the Arts in Mt. Makiling College.

It must have been his long and deep immersion in this "densely wooded, fabled and mystical" mountain that has given this artist the inspiration, the creativity, the potency to transform ordinary things into objects of weird beauty.

The whole exhibit could be seen as a tribute to the ecosystem, but it could also be just a reverie.

Valenzuela at Big & Small, Alcazaren at West, Acuna at Rustan's

"HOMAGE to Jaime Zobel's Symphony in Blue" II, by Justin Nuyda

"WHISPERING Winds. Buyaya ng Habagat" VI, by Edwin Wilwayco

WESLEY Valenzuela will hold his third solo exhibit at the Big & Small Art Co. gallery at 4/L, SM Megamall, until July 9. An award-winning young artist, Valenzuela took up fine arts at University of Santo Tomas.

RUSTAN'S Essenses teams up with international abstract expressionist painter Ivan Acuna for his exhibit on June 28-July 15 in Rustan's Makati. "Beauty in a Rhapsody of Color Palettes" will benefit the Essenses Foundation, which has charity programs for women.

VISUAL ARTS

JUAN Alcazaren's "Bigger than a Bread Box" will run at the West Gallery in SM Megamall on July 7-19. As before, the artist finds ways of giving scraps, which include his discarded artworks, new aesthetic purposes. Call 6341284.

LE SOUFFLÉ Restaurant will hold "In2uition" by Justin Nuyda and Edwin Wilwayco on June 28-July 28 in The Fort, Fort Bonifacio. Among the impressionist works to be presented are Nuyda's "Homage to Jaime Zobel's Symphony in Blue II" and Wilwayco's "Biyaya ng Habagat VI." Call 8875106.

RM de Leon will hold "anomalous" at Galeria Duemila, SM Megamall on July 1-29. The artist takes characters from pop culture, overlapping their imagery and bringing them to a darker realm. Call 6343261.

FINALE Art Gallery mounts "The Country Outing" by Wire Tuazon and Katrina Miranda until July 5 in Artwalk, 4/L, SM Megamall Bldg. A. Tuazon plays off texts against appropriated images. Miranda's paintings are a continuation of her "Underwater" series. Call 6342410/ 6342411.

"SERENE Light," a tribute exhibition to photographer and Zen Buddhist monk Butch Baluyut, will be held in the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Bulwagang Juan Luna on July 7-14. The retro show will feature Baluyut's black and white photographs taken from the late '70s up to his death in 2003. Call 8323702.

AYALA Museum features Federico Aguilar Alcuaz's "Passionate Eyes" on July 8-Oct. 2 at the Museum's ground floor gallery, corner of Makatu Avenue and De La Rosa Streets, Makati. Alcuaz is known for his large corpus of artworks that includes portraits, abstract paintings, landscapes and tapestries. Call 7577117 to 21.

Baluyut walks on 'Fields of Gold'

KARINA Baluyut opens her solo exhibit tomorrow at 7 p.m. at Galerie Joaquin Main.

The show will feature 50 works in various sizes and media, including acrylic on canvas and on paper and mixed media.

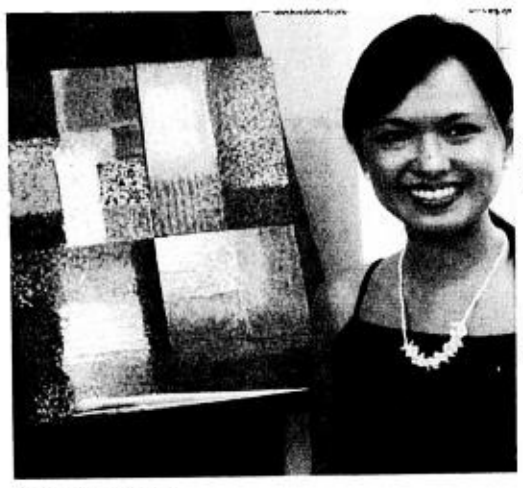
The "Fields of Gold" series is inspired by the harvest and the golden glow of morning.

Other works in the show are her butterscotch series, works in homage to Paul Klee, her orange series, urban series and Cambodian temples series.

An architecture graduate of University of the Philippines, Baluyut took some courses in painting and watercolor at the UP College of Fine Arts. Although a licensed architect, she has decided to dedicate her life to painting.

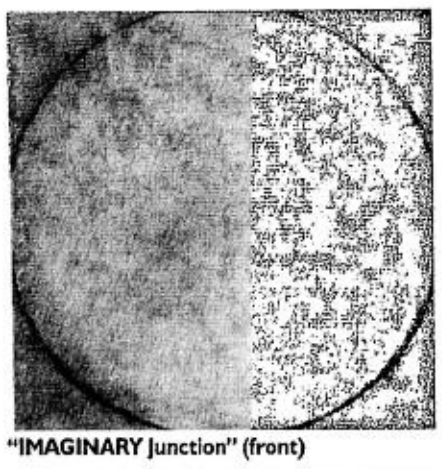
Her major influences have been the German abstractionist Paul Klee, architectural concepts, music and her travels to Asian temples.

Galerie Joaquin Main is at 2/L, 371 P. Guevarra St., and Montessori Lane, San Juan. Call 7239253 or 7239418. Visir www.galeriejoaquin.com or E-mail galerie_joaquin@yahoo.com



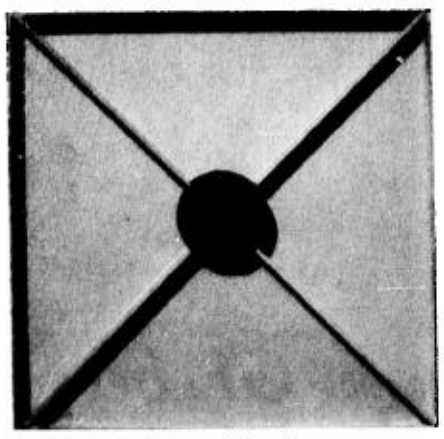
KARINA Baluyut

Phases of Lindslee



"IMAGINARY Junction" (front)

"DIFFERENT Light" (front)



"SIGNIFICANT figure" (back)

From page D1

da Vinci's Vitruvian Man with its circular border, and extremities spread. In Lee's efforts at "providing the viewer an insight into the mind of its creator," could it then be said that this body of works bare his thoughts, his details, by presenting an anatomical study in abstraction?

But, really, the approach seems more a take off from Piet Mondrian's Neoplasticism, with sharp triangulars instead of rectangulars and colors that are not confined to the primaries, which the Dutch painter used with black lines and mostly white backdrops.

With this exhibit, the artist marks an "experimentation with color and technique." Here, phases can actually refer to color perception in psychological terms, where a color circle, which is not much different from an artist's color wheel, not only also simplifies color mixture but also becomes the basis for determining which colors correspond to different wavelengths in visual regions of sensitivity.

The center of the color circle is white, as is the central mound of what seems like plaster on the back of "Different Light," with mauve for a background.

In "Significant Figure" is yet another circle, this time flat and brown, placed on top of the crossed brace against a bright shade of pink.

Revelation

This use of pink and mauve, tones that are similar to those used for flesh and muscle in cross-section illustrations of the human body, may again be a metaphor of revelation—as if to show how Lindslee is "inside."

If these installation paintings portray the inner artist, the circles symbolize the core of his being and the braces signify what keeps him together. They are perhaps the visual equivalent of his passionate creed: "Art is what my body craves for. It is the fuel in my blood that makes me move."

"Imaginary Junction" is the only piece where the central ellipse is absent, replaced by another square. This presentation of perspective poses the usual questions: Is one zeroing in on the core? Or, inversely yet complementarily, is there a broadening of comprehension?

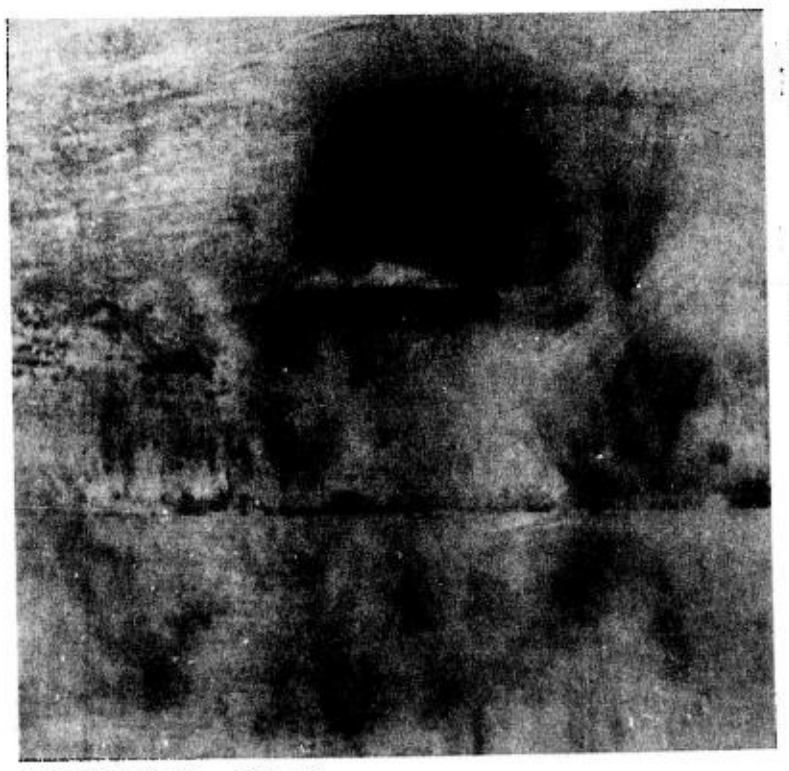
This is also a common component in psychological tests called ambiguous perspective. It is also in this piece where colors personify Lindslee quite accurately.

The turquoise blue, yellow and yellow-green, as combinations, have the following possible interpretations by Swiss psychologist Max Luscher, author of the popular Luscher color test:

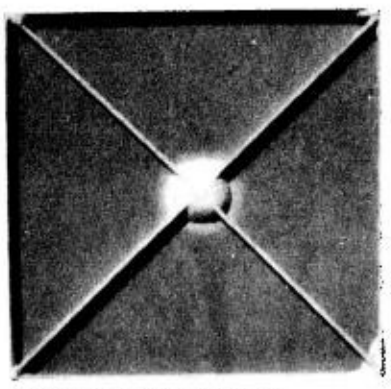
"Yellow/blue:... open to new ideas and possibilities which he hopes will prove fruitful and interesting;

"Yellow/green: alert and keenly observant. Is seeking fresh avenues offering greater freedom and the chance to make the most of them..."

Interesting, too, that it is the front of "Imaginary Junction," which includes a huge circle, on top of which is screen-like texturing, which perhaps alludes to how individuals appear intact, whole. That texture, not paint, is used to show the screen may imply the invisible barrier which needs to be removed or opened to gain access inward, to the other, maybe more vulnerable, persona.



"SIGNIFICANT Figure" (front)



"DIFFERENT Light" (back)

The front compositions then can be called the "faces," parlaying the external, that which is already known about the artist. The forbidding grays, somber earth tones and stark whites are routine for Lee, as was seen in his social realism series which spoke of his outward thoughts, observations of environs and goings-on. These represent him as part of the environment, the simple external—Lindslee at face value, so to speak.

"Face:Phase" is, in essence, Lindslee somehow allowing his audience a peek into his psyche, entry into his introspective exploration. It is also a depiction of the existence of the alter ego and the intricacies of opening the gates or doors that allow its revelation.

"Face:Phase" is on view until July 31.

E-mail author at jejaro2002@yahoo.com

Pinoy artistic triumvirate makes waves in Europe

By Gino Dormiendo
Contributor

SPRING proved a most auspicious time for a group of Filipino visual artists in Europe. While the temperature last May was rising to record-breaking levels all over our country, it remained cold and balmy in many places in Europe.

It was their first jaunt to Germany, France, Netherlands and Belgium. The entourage included senior artist Rafael Cusi, painter par excellance and master watercolorist who had previously exhibited in Spain and Portugal; Art Association of the Philippines (AAP) president Fidel Sarmiento; Saturday Group president Salvador "Buds" Convocar; and their Philippine coordinator, Bill Perez.

The Schengen exhibit organizer is Virgilio Cuizon, a resident of Germany for 30 years now who has been promoting the cause of Filipino art and culture in Europe. Cuizon was the recipient of the Banaag Award from President Macapagal-Arroyo last December for his exemplary record in improving the plight of the OFW.

First stop was Berlin, in Germany, where the group was prominently featured in an exhibit at the InterContinental Hotel. It was the first time an Asian group was being exhibited at the hotel, the choice venue of the 50th year celebrations of Filipino-German Friendship.

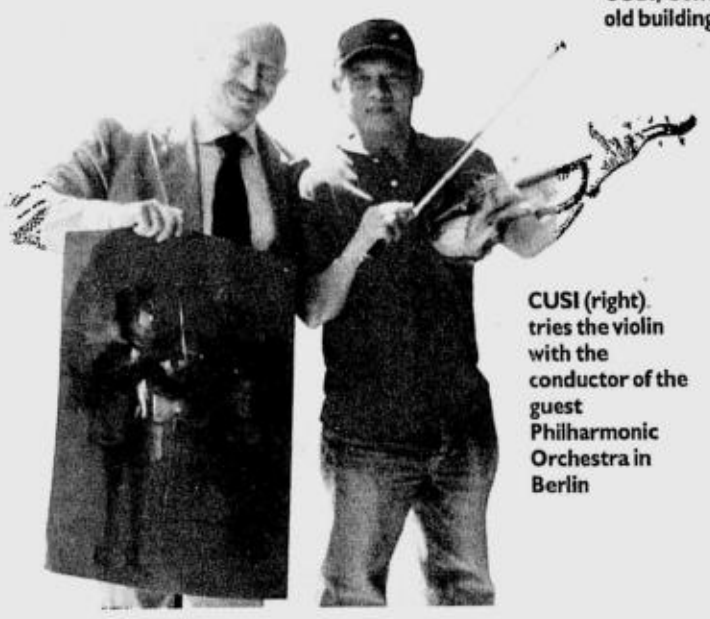
Events included a concert by La Salle Choir, a trade fair of Filipino products and a food festival, with the InterCon Hotel in Manila as the guest chef. Special guest was Ambassador Minerva Falcon.

So enthralled were the guests that they decided to purchase many of the works on opening night.

With his endearing works in *aquarelle*, done in his usual idiosyncratic mode, Cusi proved a favorite.

AMBASSADOR Minerva Falcon (center) with Virgilio Cuizon, Buds Convocar, Rafael Cusi and Fidel Sarmiento during the exhibit opening at the InterCon Hotel in Berlin

CUSI, Convocar and Sarmiento in front of an old building in Berlin, Germany



CUSI (right) tries the violin with the conductor of the guest Philharmonic Orchestra in Berlin

Close behind him was Fidel Sarmiento, whose fine delineations of elegant ancestral houses captivated the audience, including a number of European collectors.

The works of Buds Convocar, enigmatic and cryptic in their configuration of Lemuria and other such sites, were no less stimulating.

Next stop

Next stop was Brugge, the oldest city in Belgium, which has been faithfully preserved to this day. Ana Marie Gonzales, our diplomatic counselor to Belgium, was guest of honor. The venue was Stedellijk WereldCentrum, the equivalent of the Belgian Trade Center.

Once again, the Filipino community lent their support to the artists, buying their works and ordering specially commissioned works.

The artists were particularly infatuated by the colors of the landscape, the breathtaking blueness of the sky, and the long and extended daylight that allows their artists to work longer, unencumbered by the encroaching night.

Touring The Netherlands and Germany by car (driven by Cuizon, who knows every twist and turn of the continent), the group had spare time in Amsterdam, where they paid Ambassador Romy Arguelles a courtesy call.

They headed for Paris next, stopping by Montmarte, the artists' haven, meeting up with another visiting artist, Fil Delacruz, who was all by himself and was also slated to do a show in Brussels and Rome.

It was in the City of Lights that the artists had the time of their lives, visiting landmarks, checking out shows in galleries and museums, and doing sketches in places where artists converged and work.

It was one trip that proved most stimulating to the artists who desperately needed new sources of inspiration for the next phase of their artistic life.

With the marvelous sights of European cities, from Berlin to Belgium, from Amsterdam to Paris, they have seen firsthand the seats of culture, the enclave of civilization, the birthplace of Western art.

This is heady perhaps for now, even as we await their next exhibit of works, certainly bearing the imprint of a journey that, despite the distance, has managed to bring them intimately closer to their art.

E-mail gdormiendo@yahoo.com

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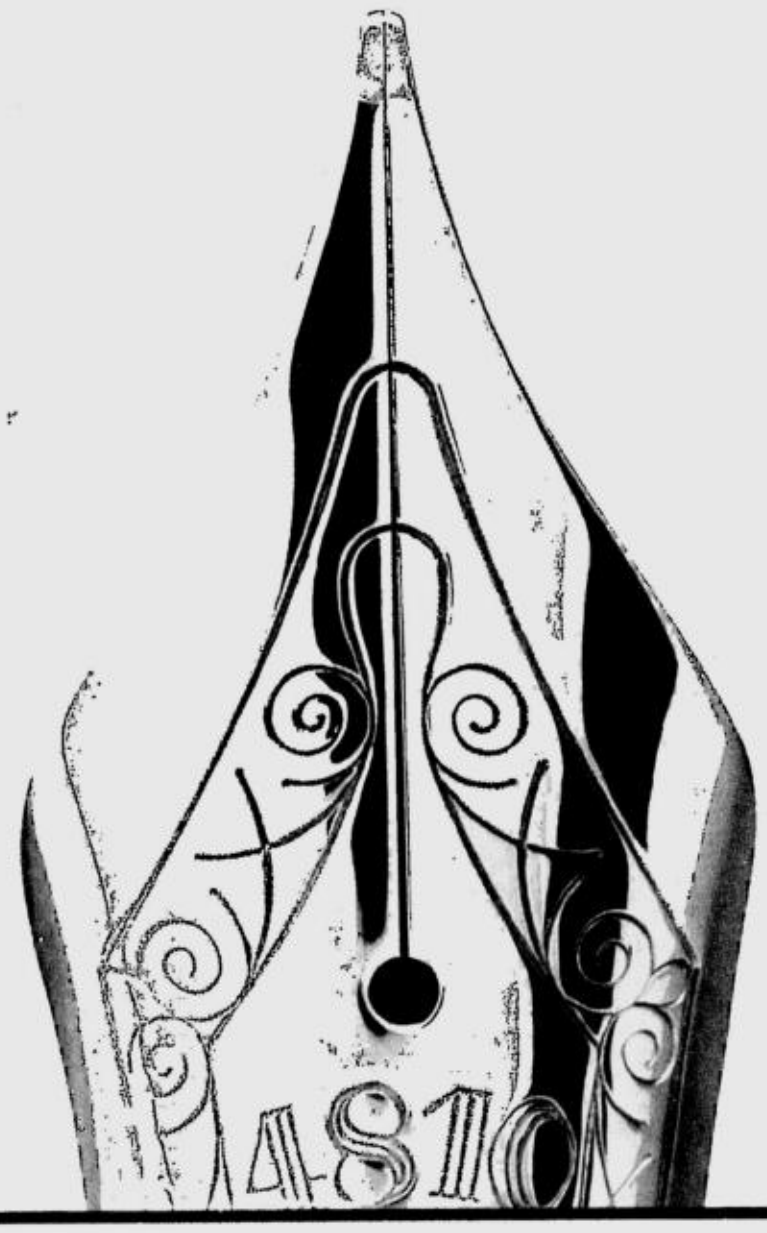

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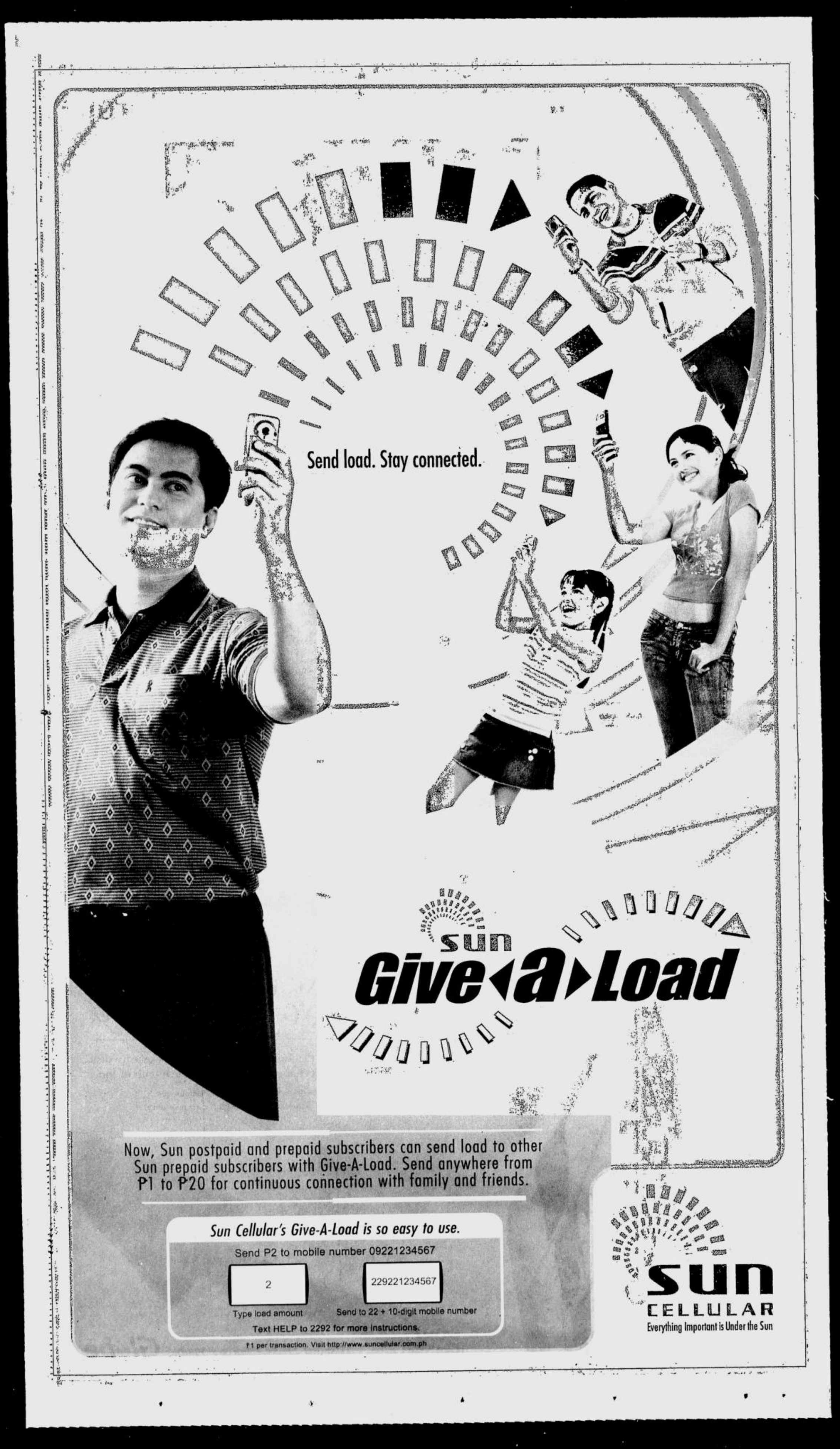
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Guidelines for creativity

PRIDE OF PLACE

Augusto F. Villalon

THE CULTURAL Center of the Philippines, the National Committee on Architecture of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, and the Philippine Association of Landscape Architects jointly announced an important architectural and landscape design competition.

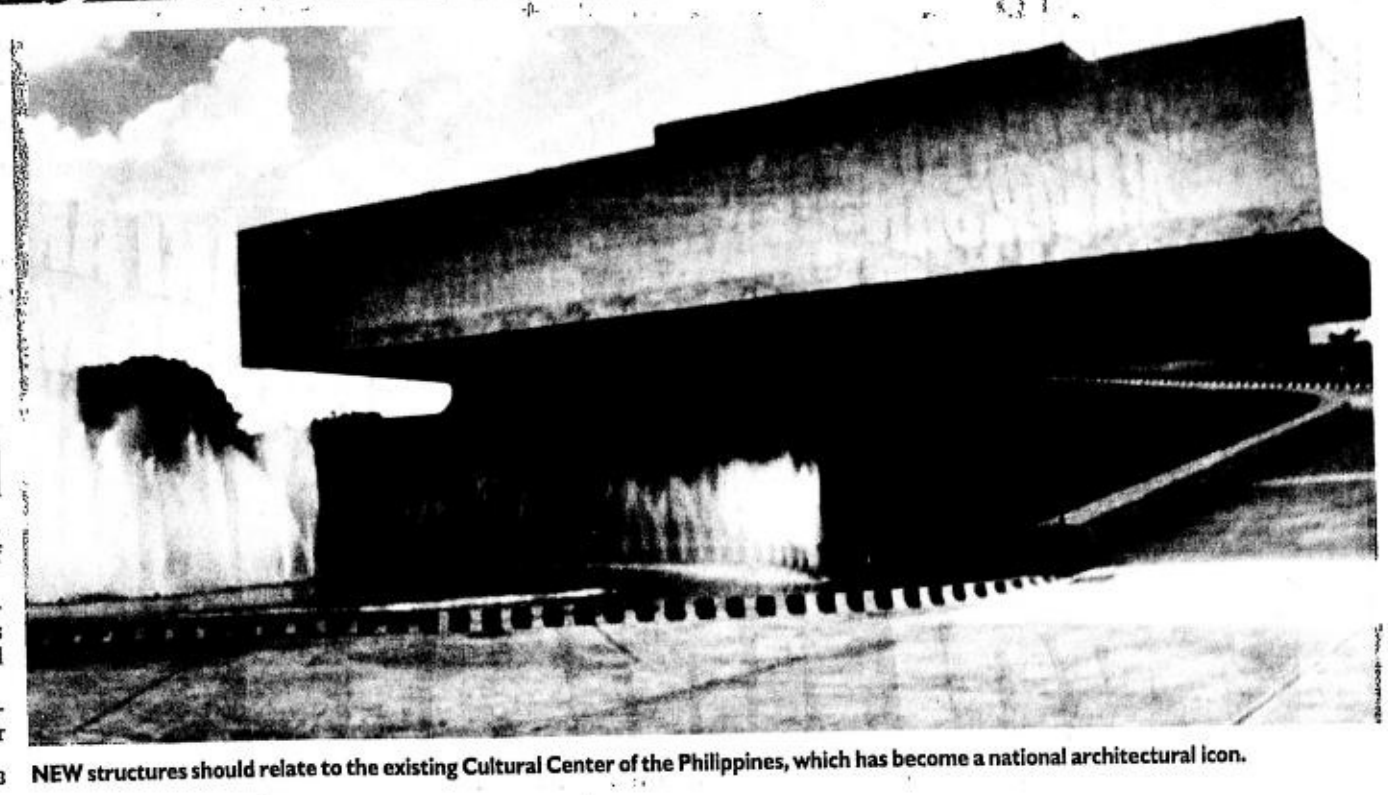
Calling for design proposals for the facilities specified in the first phase of the CCP Master Development Plan, the competition aims to develop outstanding architectural and landscape designs to establish the new CCP complex on the shore of Manila Bay as an urban "center for arts and culture in Asia and the centerpiece of artistic expression in the Philippines."

The plan outlines basic design guidelines that assure a mix of performance and commercial areas within a comfortable ratio of open and covered spaces. It also seeks to maintain a height-and-size limit for the proposed structures and specifies other fundamental requirements to ensure execution of the concept and spirit of the master plan.

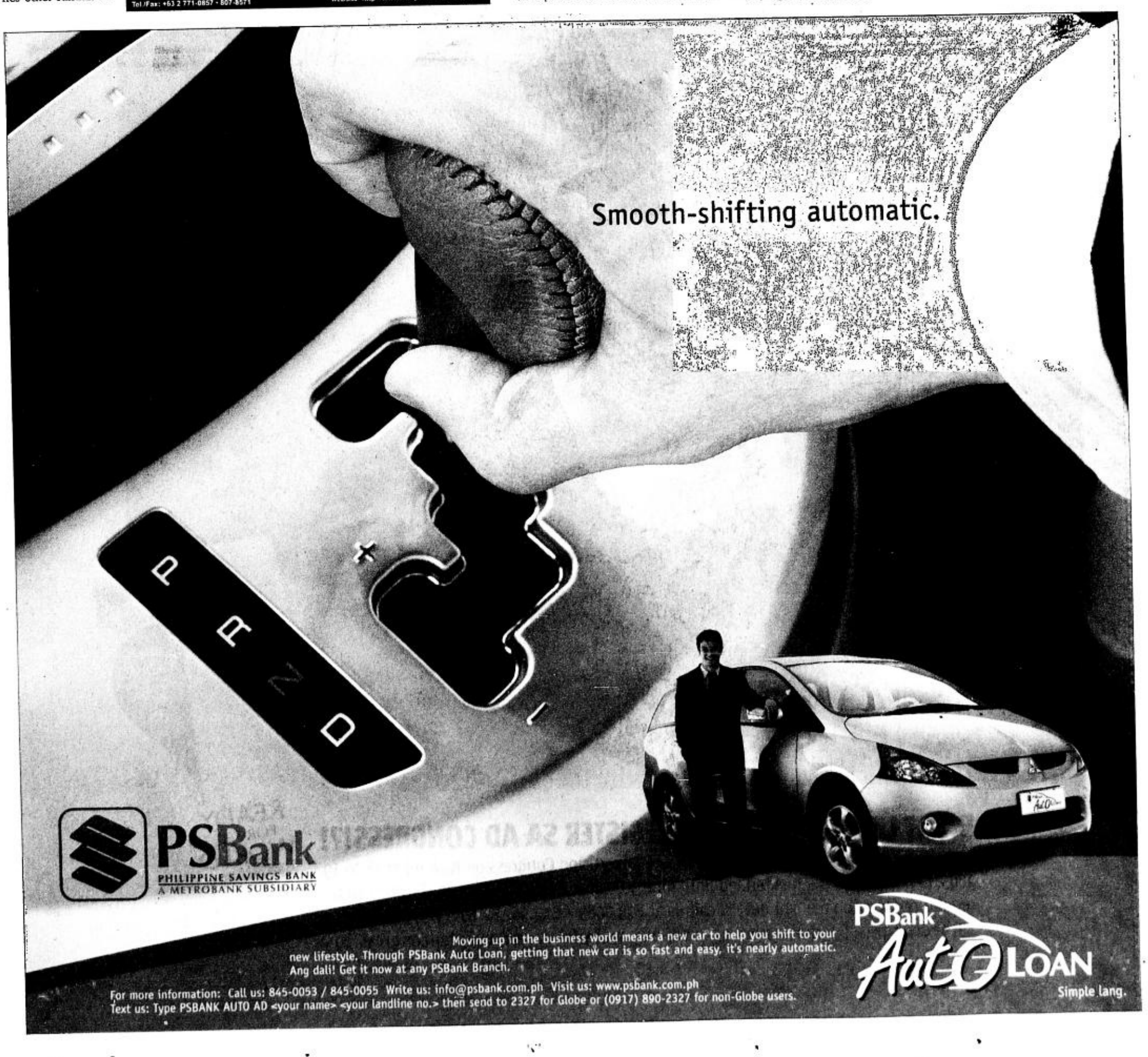
The new structures should relate to the existing CCP that has become a national architectural icon.

During the orientation conference, an architect took the floor

GUIDELINES/ E3



NEW structures should relate to the existing Cultural Center of the Philippines, which has become a national architectural icon.



BAKIT LAGING MAY SUMASABOG AT MATINGKAD NA VIOLATOR PARA MAPANSIN SA DYARYO?

BAKIT KAILANGAN GANITO KALAKI ANG MGA HEADLINE NATIN AT LAGING MARAMING

EXCLAMATION POINT???!!!!

Bakit kailangang laging nakatingin at nakaturo sa camera ang model?

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Guidelines for creativity

From page E1

to comment that she found the architectural guidelines prescribed for the competition "restricted her creativity."

Hers was a common misconstruction on the concept of architectural design guidelines.

Design guidelines lay out the ground rules and set the architectural grammar. To my knowledge, no writer has claimed that grammar has restricted his creativity on the use of language.

On the contrary, writing over the centuries reveals creativity flourishing in surprising ways while remaining within the grammatical framework, in the same manner that a lot of great architecture has been produced despite being governed by design guidelines.

Only guidelines

Architectural guidelines are simply that—guidelines. They are written to assure that buildings fit in and that they are just right for their surroundings—not too tall or short, not too fat or thin, or not too big or small. Fitting in is really important in architecture and guidelines assure that it happens.

Design guidelines, when they exist, are usually overlooked by most officials. Despite a public controversy, former president Joseph Estrada overruled design guidelines and allowed his crony to construct a building in total violation of the Building Code legislated for the historic quarter of Intramuros in Manila.

Privately developed subdivisions often impose architectural guidelines. Therefore, many developers lay out block after block of identical houses designed in a specified style, each house set back from the street and separated its neighbors by the same distance, series architecture stamped out of a single mould.

But Filipino culture places high value on asserting individuality. Homeowners have put their personal stamp on homes. It could be a simple paint change of the bland beige front door to flaming red. Others go as far as completely redesigning façades and expanding the house horizontally and vertically as the family and finances grow.

Guidelines fly out of the window as houses change. The second-generation subdivision looks nothing like the first. A constant architectural image is not considered important.

Construction guidelines in many Philippine historic districts are modeled after the outdated 1979 Intramuros Building Code, legislated to recreate the turn of the century character of the historic Spanish colonial Walled City of Manila.

Historic districts such as Intramuros in Manila and the heritage city of Vigan go a step farther in their guidelines, requiring that designs for new structures "conform to the historic character of the area," which most people take as meaning that new architecture should look old.

"Conforming" architecture in historic-district building codes demands that the new should respect the old by following the lines, materials and massing of Spanish colonial houses.

Most of the new architecture in historic districts mistake conforming as literal interpretations of the guidelines. The "conforming" new buildings fall into a kind of architectural mimicry that, paradoxically, is what the guidelines try to avoid.

Watered down

New buildings in historic districts are "*bagong luma*" (new but old) structures whose watered-down historic details try but fail to make them look old.

Literal interpretation of guidelines for historic districts has caused construction of structures like the Jollibee stores in Intramuros and Vigan, and McDonald's in Vigan, which have all opted for architectural safety by following design guidelines to the letter, coming up with "conforming" new buildings which are poor mimics of the heritage architecture they were to have taken inspiration from. This is a clear case of architectural guidelines stifling creativity!

I am waiting for someone to depart from the safe road, for the person who builds the rare example of modern architecture that, in spite of appearing to violate all rules, still fits perfectly within guidelines. There are so few architects who can do excellent contemporary design within a historic context, as there are also an equal few who can properly render traditional design.

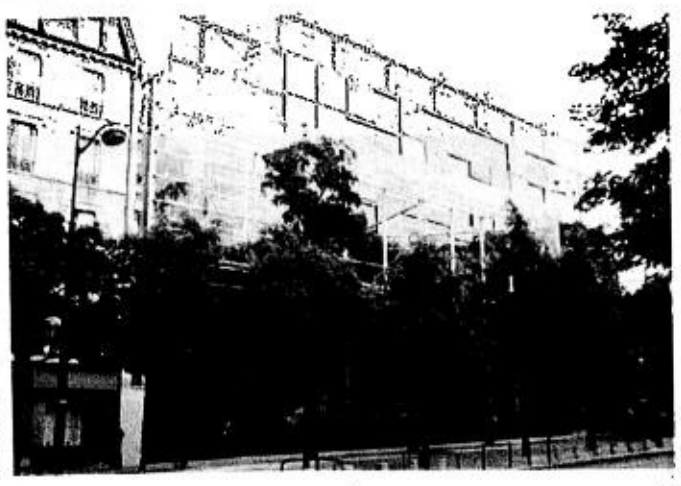
Instead of living in the urban chaos that we take for granted, we deserve a multi-textured city that is an architectural joy to live in and to be proud of.

Guidelines assure that kind of city environment. Following guidelines creatively is the only way to get us that kind of city.

The CCP Design Competition strives to introduce that kind of city to us. But will design guidelines stifle entries? I think guidelines will make the entries more interesting.

For detailed information on the CCP Design Competition and requirements for professional and student categories, call the CCP Development Office at 5517248 or 8211125 ext 1125/26.

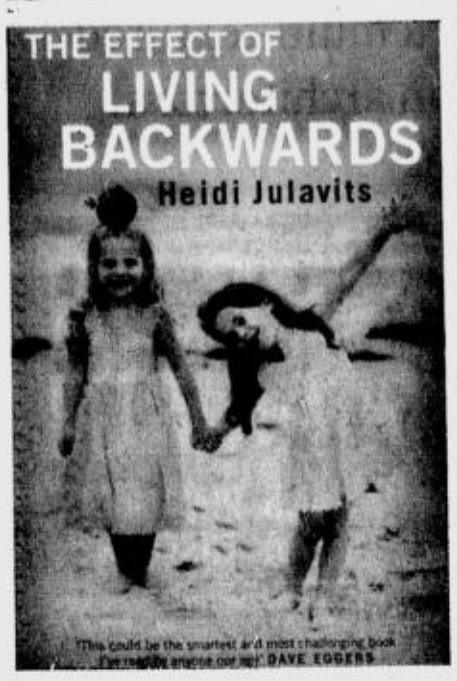
Feedback is welcome at afvillalon@hotmail.com

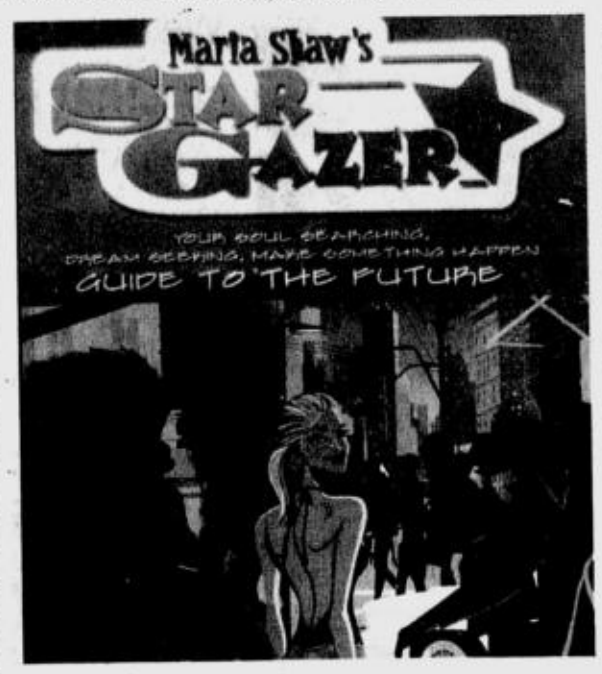


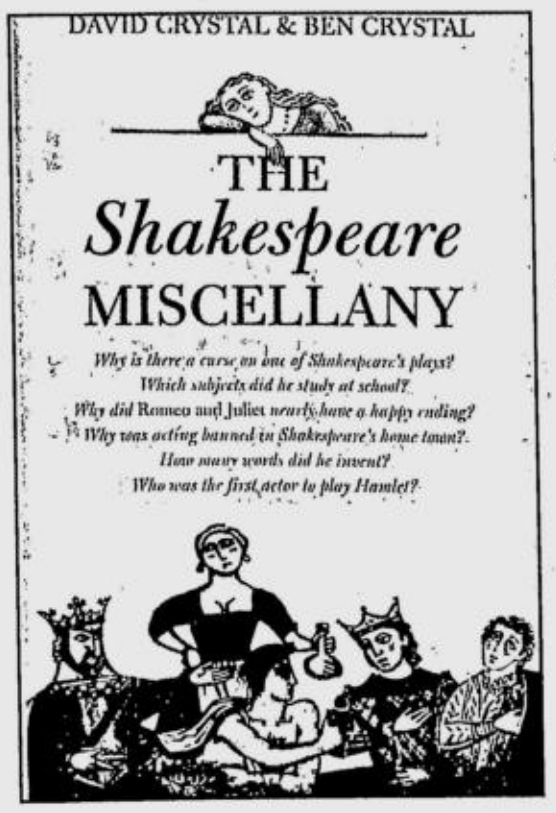
THE CARTIER Foundation Center sets a historical-contemporary architectural dialogue by "fitting in" with the tightly controlled Parisian urbanscape.

THE CCP Design Competition calls for architecturally outstanding entries that fit in with the existing CCP complex.

We deserve a multi-textured city that is an architectural joy to live in





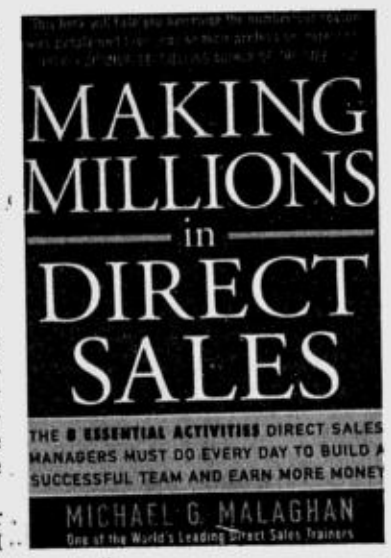


Power reads for June

ALICE Walker, best known for the best-selling novel turned motion picture "The Color Purple," brings you another profound fictional masterpiece, "Now is the Time to Open Your Heart." The novel is an intense commentary on the human spirit and what can happen when it is neglected.

"The Flight of the Falcon" by Daphne du Maurier is about Armino Fabbio, a man who becomes circumstantially involved in the murder of a peasant woman and Duke Claudio, known as The Falcon, who lived his life preying on the people of Ruffano.

A humorous guide to life for Star Trek fans, "All I Really Needed to Know I Learned from Watching Star Trek" by Dave Marinaccio, is based on the belief that every challenge faced by humankind has already been explored by the crew of the Enterprise.



"The Effect of Living Backwards" by Heidi Julavits revolves around the lives of two dissimilar sisters, Alice and Edith, whose plane gets hijacked en route to Edith's wedding. The book moves back and forth between the verbal sparring and pasts of the sisters and the psychological games played by the hijackers.

"Trace" is the latest heart-stopping Dr. Kay Scarpetta thriller by America's best-selling crime writer, Patricia Cornwell. Dr. Scarpetta returns to Richmond, Virginia, the city that turned its back on her five years ago, to investigate the death of a young girl.

"The Shakespeare Miscellany" by David and Ben Crystal is an illuminating treasury of observations that brings together little-known facts and intriguing insights into the plays and poems, as well as essential information about one of the world's greatest writers, and the dynamic Elizabethan theatrical world in which he worked.

"Cutting Edger Radio" by Jim Aitchison is the first definitive step-by-step guide to creating cutting-edge radio commercials, exploring everything from how the radio communicates, what kind of commercials work best, how to get great radio ideas and develop them into scripts, how to cast the best talent, and how to record and mix the final tracks.

"Making Millions in Direct Sales" by Michael G. Malaghan talks about a proven system to recruit, train and motivate a winning, "results count" sales team.

When San Francisco's Mayor, Gavin Newsom, ordered City Hall to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples, thousands from around the world lined up to take their vows, inspiring other US cities to follow suit. "We Do" by Chronicle Books is an intimate portrait of these history-making marriages.

Learn how to read palms, auras and tarot cards, and to develop your psychic powers all in one comprehensive compilation, with "Star Gazer" by Maria Shaw.

PowerBooks Specialty Store is a full-service specialty bookstore with branches at Greenbelt 4 (tel. 7576428/29), Megamall (6352898 to 99), Alabang (8505662 to 63) and Glorietta (7527075).

"AMA"

Cacnio at Gallery Nine

MICHAEL Cacnio, the country's foremost young sculptor, once again presents his brass tributes to time-honored traditions in "My Father's Son" at Gallery Nine in SM Megamall from June 29-July 10.

Showcased are scenes of exaltation, contentment and glee characterized by figures in frozen motion, often with moving or moveable elements. This combination of artistry and physics is the Cacnio signature that has earned him an enthusiastic following both locally and abroad.

Call 6877302.

"INA"

WHEN Eragon finds a polished blue stone in the forest, he thinks it is the lucky discovery of a poor farm boy; perhaps it will buy his family meat for the winter. But when the stone brings a dragon hatchling, Eragon realizes he has stumbled upon a legacy nearly as old as the empire itself. Overnight his simple life is shattered, and he is thrust into a perilous new world of destiny, magic and power. With only an ancient sword and the advice of an old storyteller for guidance, Eragon and the fledgling dragon must navigate the dangerous terrain and dark enemies of an empire ruled by a king whose evil knows no bounds. Can Eragon take up the mantle of the legendary Dragon Riders? The fate of the Empire may rest in his hands.

THE PHILIPPINE Board on Books for Young People (PBBY) recently met to finalize plans for the 22nd National Children's Book Day on Tuesday, July 19 at the CCP Main Theater Lobby. The theme is, Kay Sarap Magbasa sa Kandungan ni Mama. Holding the poster designed by Serj Bumatay are board members Hermie Beltran, Karina Bolasco, Flora Valmonte, Neni Sta. Romana-Cruz and Luis Gatmaitan.

For Hair Loss Problems,

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Woman AT Svenson

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New book on John Paul II

POPE John Paul II will go down in history not only as the third longest serving pope, but possibly one of the most politically influential of 305 popes and antipopes since St. Peter.

Born in Poland in 1920, Karol Wojtyla's early life was filled with intense love and intense loss: he was 8 when his mother died, 12 when his older brother died of scarlet fever and 20 when his severe but loving father died during the Nazi occupation. An avid soccer player and skier, a gifted poet, playwright and actor, by 1944, after a near fatal accident, Wojtyla was studying for the priesthood in secret.

Garry O'Connor, an accomplished biographer of the likes of Sir Alec Guinness, Ralph Richardson and William Shakespeare, has spent the last five years writing and researching this book. Unlike the competition, this book details not only Wojtyla's life before he became pope, his friendships with men and women, his nationalism, his early years as a priest in rural Poland and his travels to Rome, but also explores the pope's own poems, plays and philosophical works to find clues on what makes him tick.

EXHIBIT AT LE SOUFFLÉ

Buds Convacor, Shirley Salumbides, Bong Versoza, Omi Reyes, Fred Ramirez, Rafael Cusi, Jayson Ong, Joey Valerio and Jerome Jimenez. Choice Expression Gallery presents "Ambience," a painting and sculpture exhibit until July 10, at Le Soufflé@Fernando's, G/L, Amorsolo Square, Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. Participating artists include Ramon Orlina, Weng Unidad, Angel and Michael Cacnio, Emmanuel Garibay, and Jan Blanco.